THE INDEPENDENT

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TODAY'S NEWS

EXCLUSIVE

BAe pays to save nurse's life – and trade

British Aerospace, the company with the most to lose from any damage to Britain's trading relations with Saudi Arabia, has paid the largest chunk of the "blood money" set aside to prevent the execution of Deborah Parry, one of two nurses found guilty of murder. The Independent has seen a copy of the settlement, which shows that the victims' nearest relative, Frank Gifford, would receive the £730,000 set aside even if the court does not eventually find Ms Parry guilty of 'intentional murder' — the charge which would carry the possibility of a death sentence. See below

EXCLUSIVE

Boom in football fans

Stands at football grounds around the country are filling up again – and it's not the Premiership clubs that are driving the increase in spectator numbers, it's the clubs of the Nationwide League. More and more fans are returning to support their local team, according to our own survey of attendances so far this season. It suggests that the professional game in England and Wales is poised to enjoy its largest percentage increase in league gates for 40 years, taking attendances to their highest level for 18 years. Part of the reason is that fans

cannot get tickets for Premiership games; 10 out of the

From Labour's rousing finale to a Tory wake

20 top clubs are always full. Time Out, Page 32

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, sent the Labour faithful home from Brighton yesterday with a rousing speech largely devoted to mocking William 'Just William' Hague, the Tory leader.

As we report, however, no one will be laughing in Blackpool next week when the Conservatives gather to contemplate their future: a surprising number of the Tory great and good have decided to stay away, sending a less than supportive message to the party they helped sustain in power over the past two decades.

Diana transcripts sold

Andrew Morton, the author of the revelatory biography of Diana, Princess of Wales, is once more facing ferocious criticism for his decision to publish the transcripts of tapes which she recorded and had passed to him as material for his book.

Mr Morton was paid more than £100,000 by the American magazine, People, and was yesterday unrepentant for disclosing what he called "the scoop of the century". Report page 9, leading article page 20

Let's go to Legoland

Legoland is Britain's most popular new attraction: more than three times as many people visited the Windsor theme park as visited Buckingham Palace last year, Page 15

Gene breakthrough

A medical conference in Paris next week will hear that scientists may have found a way of injecting genes that will fight secondary cancers by taking over cells that will fight secondary cancers by taking over cells and replacing genes. The technique, however, needs further tests. Page 3

SEEN & HEARD

Rolf Harris resterday stunned his fans by admitting he did not play the didgeridoo on his most famous hit record. And nor, it seems, did anyone else. The Australian entercasier, who now presents Animal Hospital: tratian entercasier, who now presents Animal Hospital: said yesterdate hat the characteristic deep drone of the Aboriginal instrument on Sun Arise — the record which he took to number 3 in the charts in 1962 — was mocked up in the studio by Johany Spence and George Martin, the Beatles producer, using eight bass.



WEATHER Time Off, page 2 0 TELEVISION The Eye CROSSWORDS Page 26; Time Off, page 12; and ISM, page 60

Web address: http://www.

Cinderella braves the Blitz



The young Royal Ballet star Sarah Wildor dancing the lead in a new 'Cinderella'. This version of Prokofiev's ballet is set
Photograph: Laurie Lewis
during the Blitz, and opens on Tuesday at London's Piccadilly Theatre.

Blood money, arms and politics: the Saudi deal

The British company with the most to lose from the execution of two nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia has made the biggest "blood money" donation to save their lives. Steve Boggan reveals how the women were spared public beheadings and how British businesses queued up to protect their own interests.

British Aerospace, Britain's largest defence contractor, was the biggest contributor to the "blood money" fund which guaranteed the lives of two nurses accused of murder

in Saudi Arabia.

F. Sources close to the deal confirmed yesterday that the company – which takes a huge slice of Britain's £2.5bn-a-year trade with Saudi Arabia – was at the head of a list that included other defence contractors as well as private donors.

as well as private donors.

The money, \$1.2m (£730,000), was paid into an account in Australia on Wednesday and will be released when Frank Gilford, brother of the murdered murse Yvonne Gilford, fulfils two conditions of the blood-money settlement, seen yes-

terday by The Independent.

First, he must plead in writing for clemency for Deborah Parry, 38, one of the British muses accused of the murder. She

awaits a Saudi court's verdict on a charge of "intentional murder". Her co-accused, Lucille McLauchlan, has already been found guilty of a lesser charge and sentenced

to eight years in prison and 500 lashes.

Second, Mr Gilford must make a statement to the court repeating assertions that his sister was not a lesbian. Confessions which the nurses say were forced out of them centre on a row which was supposed to have erupted because Ms Gilford ended a lesbian relationship with Ms Parry. The accused say no such relationship existed.

British Aerospace refused to confirm or deny its involvement yesterday. It is currently delivering 48 Tornado strike aircraft and a number of Hawk and Pilatus train-

ing jets to the Saudis.

The defence industry was anxious that the crisis over the nurses' possible executions should not affect relations between the two countries. It is understood that the Foreign Office played a major role in raising the blood money. Officials even provided names and telephone numbers of senior figures in the defence industry and suggested that Jonathan Ashbee, Ms Parry's brother-in-law, ask them for money.

"They were incredibly helpful," Mr Ashbee said yesterday.

Among those thought to have made a donation is Vickers, which has been competing for a contract to supply tanks to the Saudis. Andrew Green, Britain's ambassador in Saudi Arabia, is a former non-executive director of Vickers. The company

yesterday refused to confirm or deny that it had made a donation.

Salah Hejailan, the nurses' lawyer in Saudi Arabia, confirmed that the money was transferred on Wednesday to a client account at a firm of solicitors in Adelaide. It can be released to Mr Gilford only with the mutual agreement of both sides; that agreement will come when he fulfils his promises next week. A verdict in Ms Parry's case is expected soon afterwards.

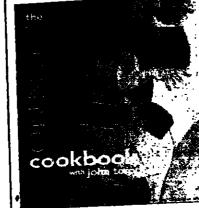
Remarkably, according to the settlement seen by *The Independent*, Mr Gilford will still receive the money even if the court finds Ms Parry guilty of a lesser degree of murder than "intentional". In that event, there would be no possibility of either nurse being executed.

"In an early version of the settlement, there was a provision that the money should be returned if there was no death penalty, but he insisted on keeping it later on," said Mr Hejailan. "Mr Gilford has made an abuse of the system ... He has treated it as an opportunity to make money and not simply to save the lives of two mnocent women."

Mr Gilford will keep \$500,000 of the fund, with the remaining \$700,000 being donated to a children's hospital in Adelaide.

Yesterday, details emerged of another murder at the King Fahd Military Medical Centre, where Ms Gilford was killed. The victim, Liberty de Guzman, was murdered in 1994. Both women were stabbed and beaten. In each case, a security guard vanished shortly afterwards.

STARTING TODAY: THE MEZZO COOKBOOK



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Exclusive

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YOUR
MONEY/
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Britain's only school dedicated to helping children with severe asthma and eczema is to close after 42 years.

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The issue of whether wives can accompany Second World War veterans to a reunion lunch has led to a peculiarly English battle.

9/DIANA REACTION

Andrew Morton has come under attack for publishing transcripts of tapes made by Diana, Princess of Wales, but the author is unrepentant, insisting he has behaved honourably and accusing his critics of hypocrisy.

10/LABOUR CONFERENCE

13/ISRAEL'S DEBACLES

Israel released Sheikh Yassin, the leader of Hamas, just as it was demanding that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, put Hamas leaders in jail. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem looks at the disastrous consequences of the capture of Israeli agents in Jordan after a failed assassination bid.

14,15/LEISURE

The plastic world of Legoland is a more popular choice for an afternoon out than the Buckingham Palace, according to a survey.

17/CRIME

A year after pictures of Muslim vigilantes publicly executing a gang leader were transmitted around the globe, open warfare has broken on the Cape Flats. As the innocents die, Mary Braid discovers the South African police are impotent in the face of crisis.

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A haunting experience: Deborah Warner's new production of The Turn

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Is it better for a thirteen-year-old to enter the boxing ring than to be bul-

21/COMMENT

David Aaronovitch: Earrings, testicles and adultery.

24/BUSINESS

Barclays put its investment banking arm, BZW, up for sale, but has yet

TIME OFF & SPORT

The new Saturday second section has travel, outdoor activities and gardening at the front and 15 pages of sport, starting from the back.

YOUR MONEY

Section three has 12 pages of personal finance, property and motoring.

WEATHER

The weather is on page 2 of the Time Off section.

CROSSWORD

This week the cryptic crossword is on page 56 of the Time Off section.

TELEVISION

Today's television is in your Eye supplement

	TOURIST RATES			I
	Australia (dollars)	2.13	Italy (lira)	2735
	Austria (schillings)	19.5i	Japan (yen)	[94.0 4
	Belgium (francs)	<i>57.</i> 35	Malta (lira)	0.60
i	Canada (\$)	2.15	Netherlands (guilders)	3.12
	Cyprus (pounds)	0.8	Norway (kroner)	JI.22)
	Denmark (kroner)	10.63	Portugal (escudos)	281.45
	France (francs)	9.33	Spain (pesetas)	234.24
i	Germany (marks)	2.78	Sweden (kroner)	12.01
	Greece (drachmei)	441.84	Switzerland (francs)	2.28
	Hong Kong (\$)	12.08	Turkey (lira)	2 <i>6</i> 79.19
	Ireland (punts)	1.07	USA (\$)	1.57
			S	ource: Thomas Cook
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POEMS

Following 'The Nation's Favourite $\pi s'$ = book and audio cassette, you can now enjoy a brand new selection of the nation's most

NATION'S

PEOPLE





Head-to-head: Chris Evans and Zoe Ball, who will be starting new jobs on the same day

Chris Evans heads back to Virgin territory

The DJ Chris Evans moved against his old employers weeks ago that Ball and Greening would replace Radio One and their new breakfast team by agreeing to front a rival show for Virgin.

The move marks the start of a ratings battle between the two popular stations, with Evans launching his new show on the same day as Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening make their own debut.

He will be rejoined by members of his old breakfast crew including student Dan, Holly "Hotlips" and

News reader Tina Richie will also rejoin the team after resigning from Radio One yesterday.

A spokesman for Evans said: "Radio is really his love. He's been doing it for 16 years, so now he's back where he loves to be. People will paint it as a war between him and Zoc, but it is not a war as far as he's concerned - Zoe is a good friend of his."

Virgin's current breakfast DJs Russel Williams and Jonathan Coleman were unceremoniously axed yesterday morning and told not to come back on Monday. A stand-in will fill their shoes until Evans launches his show on October 13.

The shake-up has sent more shock waves reverberating around the radio world than the news two

Thursday, giving Evans time to prepare for his TFI Friday Show on Channel 4.

It was the refusal by his old boss Matthew Bannister to give him this day off that prompted him

Mancunian presenters Mark Radeliffe and Mark Ri-

The new show will only run from Monday to

to leave Radio One. Evans, 30, who was paid £1 million a year for his old Radio One breakfast show and added more than

a million listeners to the station's audience, is expected to receive a similar amount from his new em-The move marks a return to Virgin Radio for Evans - he presented the Big Red Mug Show for the station four years ago. He has also worked on

Piccadilly and GLR before heading for television success with The Big Breakfast and Don't Forget Your Toothbrush on Channel Four. The show's run may be limited, however, because

of an expected decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on a planned merger between Virgin and Capital Radio.

Vexed Londoners wish Oasis would dry up

Oasis yesterday announced dates and venues for the second half of their British tour, prompting glee from devoted fans and doubtful groans from police officers and local residents.

After the first series of concerts, most recentlagher brothers have polarised. Fans raved and are expected to show massive enthusiasm for the new

But those bearing the brunt of the crowds and their behaviour have been less complimentary, particularly after scenes at last weekend's London concert, when mounted police were called in to quell disturbances.

Beer cans were burled and fans urinated in nearby gardens. A councillor was moved to comment: "The Gallagher brothers are foul-mouthed, vulgar, uncouth yobs and so are many of their fans." Nigel Roberts, who has lived in the area for five years, said: "They (the fans) were jumping over the railings of our communal garden and defe-

cating on the grass." Organisers said they may reconsider having the band back; in any case, their next London venue

is Wembley Arena. The dates in full are: Glasgow SECC, December 7 and 8; Cardiff Indoor Arena, December 10

and 11; Manchester G-Mex, December 13 and 14;

Wembley Arena. December 16, 17, 18.

Steven Barnes, a 28-year-old Aborigine,

is pleading with a court to be allowed

to suffer traditional punishment of be-

ing speared in the legs and having a

boomerang thrown at him after plead-

ing guilty to killing his nephew in a fight.

Northern Territory Supreme Court de-

nied bail so that he could receive the

punishment. In many areas of outback

Australia judges often give suspended

But Justice Steven Bailey in the

Aborigine dying to be punished

Sweet taste of success

for rocket scientist

The bubbles in an Aero chocolate bar inspired a scientist with a sweet tooth to develop a low-cost rocket fuel. The idea behind the Space Quest Foundation's discovery came when full-time researcher Derek Willis, 37, bit through his favourite Nestle "bubble

Today should see the first launch of a rocket powered by the fuel in an experiment being staged at a farm at Skipton, Yorkshire. "Fuels for rockets are particularly expensive, so we needed a cheap fuel based on oxygen and a kind of slurry," Mr Willis said. "I had this idea of forcing oxygen down through the slurry and then setting it hard.

"I was just chewing on this bar of chocolate and the idea hit me. It's very simple in principle." Billions of bubbles are blasted into the oil-based slurry at 3,000lbs per square inch. The hardened formula, which the scientists have patented, can then be put into the rocket's chamber.

Acrated Solid Propellant, or Asprop, costs a tenth of the fuel used to blast the space shuttle into space. It could save United States space agency NASA about un to 60 million dollars - about £37.5 million - per mission. Space Quest's six researchers, five of whom work part time, have a little workshop in Byker, Neweastle, and got together to get youngsters interested in science and technology. The foundation produces videos and booklets to help schoolchildren learn about technology. Youngsters also become involved in making rockets.

sentences to Aboriginal defendants,

knowing their real punishment will

come from their own tribe in the form

if he still wanted to go through the pun-

ishment even though it might kill him,

Barnes replied, "Yes" in a barely audi-

ble voice. An elder in Barnes' Lajamanu

people told the court they had been

preparing for the punishment.

Asked by prosecutor Michael Carey

of "payback."

UPDATE

HEALTH

'Danger' fireboard escapes ban

Experts investigating the health risks of medium-density fibreboard said there was no evidence so far to justify banning the product.

Critics have labelled the versatile wood substitute used by millions of DIY fans the "asbestos of the nineties", claiming it causes cancer, sore throats and damage to the lungs and heart. But at the end of the first stage of a major investigation, the Health and Safety Executive said there was no need for urgent action to take the product off the shelves.

MDF is used throughout the furniture-making industry and by DIY enthusiasts to build wardrobes, cupboards and bookcases. It is made of " wood dust and scrap, usually bonded in with formaldehyde - which is al-: ready recognised as a carcinogen. When it is cut, it releases dust which a is much finer than dust from other materials.

The HSE said as long as regulations were followed the product could be used safely. "Based on current available evidence, it is HSE's view that ... there is no need for a ban on MDF." Although studies had shown al? though formaldehyde vapour could irritate the eyes, nose and throat, some! di one cutting MDF was not exposed to levels at which it became hazardous. The regulations say exposure to the dust should be limited by the use of especially sensitive dust masks, dust extraction equipment and cutting material in well ventilated areas or outside. Although only workplaces are legally obliged to follow the regulations, the HSE said DIY enthusiasts, would also be well advised to take the same precautions.

PRISONS

Watchdog praises Group 4 jail

A privately run jail criticised by the Prison Service yesterday received a glowing report from the Chief Inspector of Prisons. Sir David Ramsbotham said the decision to designate Buckley Hall Prison, near Rochdale, Lancashire, which is run by security firm Group 4, as needing special man-

agement attention was "undeserved". But in a report on the jail he again expressed concern that random drug-testing in prisons was driving inmates to use heroin instead of softer drugs such as cannabis. Sir David said he was delivering a "thoroughly good report" on Buckley Hall, which Prison Service chiefs had previously earmarked as a problem jail. "Nothing we saw suggested this was in any..." way appropriate for Buckley Hall and indeed, not only is the stigma attached to it undeserved, but, in view of the large number of prisons which are way below the standard of Buckley Hall but have not been made so subject, it undermines the credibility of the process."

Sir David blamed earlier problems in the prison on a too rapid influx of inmates after it was opened in 1994. He criticised the way those difficulties were seized upon and exploited by groups opposed to private pris ons on "ethical and political grounds". But he also expressed concern about the scale of the drugs problem at Buckley Hall which mirrored other jails

Both staff and inmates had suggested prisoners were switching from cannabis to heroin because it was detectable for a much shorter period, after it was taken. The Prison Service should complete research currently under way into the issue as a "matter of urgency", Sir David said. "If the results suggest the introduction of mandatory drugs-testing has affected for the worse prisoners' drug-taking behaviour, then the policy to review drug abuse may have to be reconsidered".

LEARNING DISABILITIES

Mencap battles to combat bias

Five years after changing its name, Mencap, the charity for learning disabilities, says there is "still a long way to go" before the public and media stops discriminating against those they support.

The name was changed from the mentally handicapped because learning disabilities was a less discriminatory and more accurate term. But in a recent Mencap survey almost 50 per cent of the public still described the charity as being for the mentally handicapped and 13 per cent believed Mencan to be a mental-health charity.

This demonstrates a large degree of misunderstanding around learning disability, says the charity. "People with learning disabilities are discriminated against in employment, when on holiday, through leisure and with a variety of services such as housing, the NHS and the criminal justice system. Only with real understanding of the issues can society hope to end discrimination as we near the end of the 20 th century," said Fred Heddell. Mencap's chief executive. "We still have a long way to go to change the public's and media's perceptions of what people with learning disabilities Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

SILICONE DEBATE

Breast implants declared safe

Silicone breast implants are safe, a leading US gynaecologist claimed. Elizabeth Connell, former chairwoman of the US Food and Drug Administration panel on breast implants, said 20 studies had failed to find evidence that they cause disease. Illnesses suffered by women who have had breast surgery are not related to the implants, she said. Professor Connell, who is in Britain to advise the UK government on its review of breast implants. due for completion by the end of the year, issued a plea for public and professionals to focus on the facts rather than the emotion that is "be-" ing whipped up in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of US courtrooms. 3 Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

CRIME PREVENTION

Probation officer's tag warning

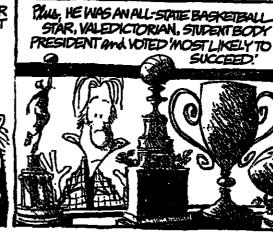
Electronic tagging of offenders could provide a cost-effective and constructive answer to crime prevention and public safety, according to a book by Kent's Chief Probation Officer, Dick Whitfield, based on research in the UK and abroad. But if wrongly used, it could equally be an "electronic trip-wire" because offenders who do not respond are bound, later on, to end up in prison, even though they may have been tagged for offences which did not originally justify custody. Using the tag solely as a method of punishment as, for instance, in proposals to make it avail. able as a penalty for fine default, is a "very simplistic approach and likely to be an expensive one", Mr Whitfield warns. Tackling the Tag, is published Patricia Wynn Davies, Legal Affairs Editor.

ZITS













gene com steP A new trial from

may offer some

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Doctors of the future may use gene therapy routinely to cure cancer. A new trial from Canada may offer some hope. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, unravels the blueprint for a new cure.

The elusive promise of "gene therapy", in which cancers and inherited genetic defects could be treated by injecting replacement functional genes, may have begun to be fulfilled.

A conference in Paris next week will hear that a Canadian company has successfully managed to get new genes to seek out secondary tumours in laboratory animals. There, the replace a faulty CF gene was replacement genes take over from the faulty genes which are

allowing uncontrolled growth. Although the technique is in its early stages - it has only so far been demonstrated with "marker" genes, rather than anti-cancer genes - and would have to pass a number of clinical hurdles before being used in humans, it suggests that the multi-pronged approach to gene therapy may begin to pay off in a few years.

That in turn would mean relief, and perhaps even a cure, for thousands of people both with cancers and inherited disorders such as cystic fibrosis.

The new system has been developed by a Canadian company, Inex Pharmaceuticals of Vancouver, and uses artificial "packages" to carry the new brane carrier systems, are made are injected into the blood- tial to do just this."

stream. They contain a package of genes: in lnex's trials, these were tumour suppressor genes, which carry the code to make proteins which stop cells from reproducing wildly. The trials found that the genes' proteins were being produced in sec-

If the findings are confirmed, and can be carried over to humans, it will be an important step forward for the technique. So far, human clinical trials of gene therapy have promised much but delivered little. The first ailment to be attacked was cystic fibrosis (CF). in which a faulty gene causes overproduction of mucus in the lungs, with fatal results.

One of the first trials attempting to use gene therapy to carried out in Britain. It incorporated the gene into a modified retrovirus - the class of viruses including HIV, which causes Aids - because retroviruses add their genetic material to that of their target cells. The hope was that the working CF gene would be incorporated into the lung's lining, and prevent the overproduction of mucus. However, the results have been disappointing, and success using retroviruses has remained elusive.

But the Inex technique of using fats, which is being followed by a number of other gene therapy companies, may eventually show more promise, even though it relies on an artificial package for the genes. Dr John Warner, head of Inex's gene therapy division, said: "Today, one of the genes to the disease site. The main limitations in gene therapackages, called transmem- py is the inability to get genes to metastatic or widespread disease. up essentially of fat droplets and Our technology has the poten-



A 300lb tigress, from the photographer Belinda Wright's 1984 article for National Geographic, which is reproduced in a centenary issue volume published this week; Big picture, page 26

Burning bright: one girl's hopes for the tiger

A young British girl met the Prime Minister of ludia yesterday, and made a personal plea to help save the tiger from extinction.

Jenny Osgood, from Newquay, Cornwall, presented I K Gujral with a petition she had organised, at a meeting in New Delhi. Jenny was in Delhi as part of a trip organised by the British Environmental Investigation Agency animal protection

charity, in co-operation with Indian organisations. The petition, which Jenny, 16, collected in her local area after seeing EIA work on the plight of the Indian tiger, contains 7,000 signatures - one for each tiger left in the wild today. Jenny, who is visiting India with her mother and is taking part in Indian wildlife week during which she will travel to a tiger reserve, said: "I hope very much that

other young people will get involved in the campaign and that my visit will show that young people care about this issue. If enough people care and act on that caring then we can save the tiger." Almost two-thirds of the world's remaining tiger

population - which in 1900 stood at about 80,000 is in India, where at least one is poached every



Some of the prominent Tory figures who won't be there (from left): Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Sir David English, Michael Heseltine, Lord Hanson, Charles Saatchi, and Adair Turner

Heseltine's not going, Archer's not going... so who is?

The Conservatives are not dead, they are just sleeping, Tony Blair told Labour delegates in Brighton. Kim Sengupta and Anthony Bevins ask whether next week's Tory conference of reawakening will be more like a wake.

It's their party and they will cry if they want to. The Conservative organisers at Blackpool may well be feeling the need for boxes of Kleenex as they contemplate the dwindling guest list at one of the most important party conferences in their 165-year history.

landlside, the party's encore was a triumphant first conference back in power. Now what's left of Smith Square's propaganda machine must try and boost morale in a production where the cast appears to be voting with its feet.

Hotel and boarding house rooms were as hard to find in Brighton as unreconstructed socialists supporting Clause IV. But in Blackpool there have been late cancellations, and those arriving on spec should have no difficulty finding a place to stay.

regrets include a sizeable portion of the the Conservatives also appear to be withgreat and the good who, you would have drawing. Lord Hanson will be in America owner of the Daily Mail and Mail on Sun-

There has also been a reduction in the corporate hospitality field, and fringe meetings. For the first time in many years, the literature sent out from Central Office does not even have a fringe guide.

Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, is not going; neither, it appears, is Lord Archer, the cx-deputy chairman of the party, who hosted famous champagne and shepherd's pie parties, where his friends say important matters of state were discussed. Two people closely of indifference from its traditional sup-The people who have already sent their identified with promoting and projecting

Labour at Brighton was always going to be a hard act to follow. After the election being a Conservative conference in the past.

thought would never have dreamt of snubbing a Conservative conference in the past.

Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, will also be missing from Blackpool, although he was available for Labour at Brighton. Like Lord Hanson, he has a pressing engagement in the US. The CBI stressed that this was not a snub, and he would probably attend next year's conference.

But perhaps the most worrying development for Tory spin doctors is the level porters in the media. Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, the



day, will not be there - the first time he has missed a Tory conference in 20 years. All is not lost, however. Central Office points out that 3,600 representatives have registered to attend, 400 more than last year.



IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT



THE **DEBORAH** ROSS INTERVIEW Tim Waterstone: Britain's favourite bookseller - three wives, eight children, £42m and still out for revenge

STYLE Found! The smartest, sharpest fashion shop

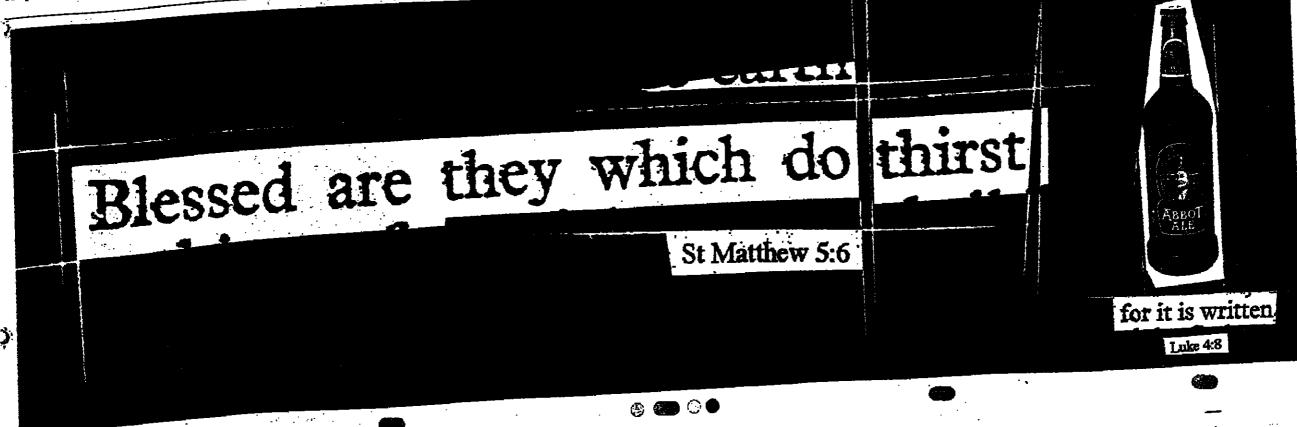


THE EYE Murray Lachlan Young v Keats what is National Poetry Day for?

MEDIA+ Charlie Whelan, the man who outspun Peter Mandleson



SPORT David Ginola: what he wants and why the French ignore him



Race-hate victims win landmark judgment

Mal Hussain and Linda Livingstone are the victims of six years of racial violence and harassment. But now, writes Patricia Wynn Davies, they have been given the go-ahead to sue the local council for failing to protect

Despite a well-documented campaign of racial harassment, leading to 46 separate criminal convictions of the perpetrators, no one has been evicted from the Ryelands council estate in Lancaster, where Mal Hussain and Linda Livingstone run a minimarket.

But in the first clear High Court ruling of its kind, a judge has decided that their civil action against Lancuster City Council should go ahead. Judge Wolton QC overruled a lower-ranking judge on 15 July who supported a move by the council to have the case struck out. Unless the latest ruling, handed down on Thursday, can

be successfully challenged in the Court of Appeal, the case, backed by the National Assembly Against Racism, is set to become a cause célèbre for campaigners against

Nine people were convicted in July of crimes related to the petrol bombing of the shop. They included five juveniles who were sentenced to a total of 24 years and a seven year sentence against 38-year-old Craig Wareing A number of the offenders are council tenants.

Mr Hussain, 43, is the only black person on the estate. He and Ms Livingstone, 49, sunk their savings into the store, fulfilling their ambition of owning their own business in a quiet city an easy distance from the Lake District and Lancashire's holiday resorts. But the shop has become a fortress under siege. The couple's persecutors have daubed graffiti, thrown bricks and petrol bombs and issued death threats, Mr Hussain said. "We have had gangs outside chanting 'If you want the Paki out clap your hands. If you want the Paki dead thump the seat'."

Mr Hussain said yesterday: "Since

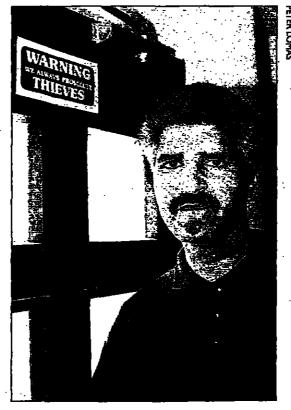
moving to Rylands estate in June 1991 we have been subjected to continuous racist attacks, racial violence, racial abuse and racial harassment and intimidation. Nothing has been done to protect us."

Ms Livingstone said: "I set great store on law and order. I thought if we went to the council they would do something about it. If they are saying they have done everything they can, why have they tried to stop the case coming to court?"

Leo Jasper, vice-chairman of the National Assembly Against Racism, said: "If those who have stood by while Mal and Linda suffered are not force to pay a price, then every local authority and every police force will know that they can turn a blind eye to racial harassment."

Clive Romain, of the couple's solicitors; Bindman & Partners, said: "This is a very welcome and even historic ruling.

"Up to now the law has been unclear, Now the High Court has ruled that local authorities can be liable as landlords for acts of puisance including racial harassment when they fail to take action against the perpetrators."



Jail for gems-haul housekeeper who deserted toddler

A heartless housekeeper who stole a fortune in jewellery and then fied, allegedly leaving a helpless autistic toddler alone in the premises, was jailed for nine months yesterday.

Annette Lanigan-Ryan, 30, recruited through Lady magazine, had been working for her employer less than 24 hours before she found her safe was full of valuable watches and diamond-encrusted jewellery. She pocketed the £10,000 haul, snatched £600 in cash lying near by and headed for the nearest pawnbrokers. When police caught up with her she was making one of her many visits to a casino, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Mr Recorder Alan Hilton QC told the servant her dishonesty amounted to a "serious breach of trust". "It seems to me you lost very little time in deciding to take the jewellery and the money. "I accept the sight of the jewellery must have tempted you and that you have never been in trouble before ... but this offence is so serious a custodial sentence is inevitable." Lanigan-Ryan admitted one count of theft in July this year, was led from the dock

Her former employer, businessman's wife Mrs Toyin Kamgaing, from Kensington, London, dismissed the woman's apparent distress as "nothing but crocodile tears". "I feel very bad about all this. The most important thing was not the jewellery that was stolen but that my two-and-a-half year old daughter Zara, who is a specialist-needs child, who was left in the house all by herself with the front door open. She is autistic with no concept of danger ... she could have had a terrible accident."

Earlier, Peter Lynch, prosecuting, told the court Lanigan-Ryan began her new duties by cleaning her boss's bedroom where the household safe was located. The barrister said Mrs Kamgaing later left the house leaving her live-in help to carry on with her work. When she returned an hour later Lanigan-Ryan had disappeared, along with the jewellery and money.

Mr Lynch said officers tracked the deceitful servant to a central London casino. Later, they found she had visited it no less than 21 times that month. Her home in Rowley Way, St Johns Wood, north-west London, was searched and a number of pawn tickets found.

Ford workers stage lightning strike over pay dispute

Production of Fiesta cars at Ford's biggest UK plant was halted yesterday because of a lightning strike by workers over pay.' Around 60 workers at the Dagenham assembly plant in Essex staged the unofficial walkout yesterday afternoon and they were later joined by other employees.

The company said production of Fiesta cars and vans was halted because of the strike.

The sudden walkout was believed to be a reaction to a pay offer made yesterday by the company to union leaders representing all of Ford's 20,000 production workers.

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The offer of a 2.75 per cent rise this year followed by another rise of 2.75 per cent next year was rejected by union negotiators who described it as an "insult".

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the Transport and General Workers Union, said the company had failed to answer concerns about job security.

He hoped for an improvement when the two sides meet again for further talks next month.



Personnel shortages mean warships miss training

Royal Navy warships are unable to take part in vital training exercises because of shortages of key personnel, it was disclosed yesterday. The Navy's Warfare Branch is about 400 personnel short and an urgent effort is being made to recruit the necessary

Personnel are being taken from other vessels to ensure that ships on military operations and patrols are not affected. But there is deep concern at the need to withdraw vessels from training because of impact on skills.

The shortages are being blamed on the ban on recruitment during manpower reductions in the Options for Change cutbacks

The Navy said the Warfare Branch problems were expected to level off shortly.

M&S recalls Schoolboy, 10.

pillows Marks & Spencer is recalling a

heating

range of back and neck heating. pillows after two customers complained they had caused

The two customers said they received minor injuries after pads used to heat the neck pillows

overheated. A further three customers have complained that the pads

began smoking when they used them. M&S said it was urging customers to return all the items to their nearest store for a full refund. Although no complaints

have been received about the back pillow, which went on sale in August, they are also being recalled as a precautionary

Some 4,200 neck pillows have been sold since they went on sale in M&S stores a year

A schoolboy died following an after-school drinking binge, it was revealed yesterday.

drinks session

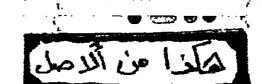
dies after

Stephen Galloway-McGee. 10, of Paisley, died at Southern General Hospital, Glasgowion Thursday, two days after he and his friends drank from bottles they found in a carrier bag near the former Chrysler car

factory underpass in Linwood. His mother, Margaret, made the decision to turn off his lifesapport machine. Stephen, who had been declared brain dead earlier in the day, was kept alive on the machine until doctors had carried out tests to discover what had happened to him.

Doctors do not know exactly what Stephen drank, aithough traces of vocka were found in his body. Police recovered two of the bottles of alcohol which were in the bag and have sent them for analysis.





33

Closure threat for school that provides breath of fresh air for asthmatic pupils



Save Our School: Pilgrims pupil Nicholas Flint at the demonstration outside I CAN's offices in London yesterday

Britain's only school dedicated to helping children with severe asthma and eczema is to close after 42 years. Parents told Lucy Ward, education correspondent, of the miracles Pilgrims School has worked.

Two years ago, Katie Faulkner's asthma was so bad that she gasped for breath after a few steps uphill. When her family went on holiday, they had to take an extra suitcase just to transport the drugs and nebuliser she needed to keep her condition under control.

Today,15-year old Katie, from Colchester, Essex, is able to run, swim and canoe and has just gained a bronze award for trampolining. Instead of pulling a nebuliser mask over her face every two or three hours, she uses small hand-held inhalers whenever she feels breathless.

The improvement, she and her family say, is down to her move to Pilgrims School in Seaford, East Sussex. Housed in a former school for children with tuberculosis who benefited from the sea air, the boarding school has, since 1955, been working educational and medical wonders for young asthma and eczema sufferers unable to attend mainstream establishments.

At the start of this term, however, parents and children were devastated to hear that the school is to close in December. I CAN, the small charity running Pilgrims, claims a dramatic fall in pupil numbers and a resulting operating shortfall of £400,000 a year have made the school unviable.

ough there is capacity for 56 pupils all of them have access to round the clock medical care as well as a full education from 48 staff, only 21 places were confirmed at the start of the academic year. I CAN blames a combination of changes in the management of asthma and eczema, with an increasing emphasis on mainstream schooling, and severe funding pressures in local health and education services.

A statement yesterday described a "difficult decision taken with great sadness" but added: "Unfortunately to date nobody has been prepared to help us and we simply do not have the resources to continue to support the school alone."

Parents of Pilgrims pupils, who yes terday lield a 25-strong demonstration outside I CAN's London offices, reject the charity's conclusion. They claim it allowed the school's profile to slip, doing too little to raise awareness of its facilities among parents of asthma suffers until it was too late. With each pupil bringing £28,000 annually in funding from their local education authority, a full school would be perfectly viable, parents insist.

Patricia Faulkner, mother of Katie, said the school had immeasurably benefited her daughter, who had been struggling with just three hours' home tuition a week after illness forced her to leave her mainstream secondary school. She now faces a search for a suitable alternative school prepared to accept her, but fears she will have to return to home tuition.

Despite yesterday's protest, the closure plans remained unchanged last night. The families are now considering whether they could take over the school themselves.

Rich may help the poor at Oxford

(Wealthier Oxford colleges may bail out their poorer neighbours if the government opts to cut the extra fee paid to collegiate universities. Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, finds the university considering whether students should be asked to make a further contribution.

legal advice over whether it could extend its "Robin Hood" system of redistribution of wealth among colleges if threatened funding cuts are implemented next year.

The university wants to know how far charity law will permit richer colleges, which already pay a voluntary "tax" to those with fewer resources, to use endowments to help those in greater funding trouble.

But it fears colleges' own charitable status, which in some cases bars them from running up deficits, could prevent them offering charity to neighbours.

The Robin Hood option is

and Cambridge await a decision from ministers over the fate of college fees - extra funds paid by local authorities to colleges for each student taught.

Sir Ron Dearing's report on the future of higher education, published in July, recommended a review of the fees, which help fund provision such as tutorial teaching, libraries and pastoral support within individual colleges.

Oxford colleges are devising contingency plans in case the fees, worth £18m annually, are axed, Cambridge, v £17m, claims it is concentrating on putting the case for the funding to remain untouched.

Wadham College, Oxford, and chairman of the Conference of Colleges, said the loss of the full £35m could mean 1,000 job losses, academic and non-academic, between the two universities. That could have a devastating effect on the tutorial system, under which Oxbridge students are taught in ones and twos, which both universities consider crucial in re-

taining world-class quality. Redistribution of funds from rich colleges, even if legalenough to save poorer neighbours if the full college fee is cut, Mr Flemming said. However, it might be viable if only a portion of the money was withheld by the Government. He added: "Everybody feels we

are all in this together." A further option being examined at Oxford is the possibility of charging future students fees to make up for the loss of public funding. The charges would be levied on top of tuition fees of up to £1,000 a year already planned

Doubt remains over whether asking students to cover for college fees would fall foul of proposed legislation to John Flemming, warden of prevent universities charging top-up fees in addition to the standard tuition fee.

> Oxford is also aware that it could not claim to be maintaining or improving access for non-traditional students if it charged fees without taking into account ability to pay. Mr Flemming said: "Any fee would probably only be paid by half the students, so in order to replace a £1,000 college fee you would have to charge a £2,000 fee which you would then waive

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Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

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under consideration as Oxford ly permissible, would not be for half the students." Fast-track sacking for poor

performance teachers

Around 900 teachers in England and Wales could be at risk of swift dismissal under rigorous new procedures for sacking incompetent

Lucy Ward explains how € the unions are supporting a scheme that allows for the removal of the worst teachers in less than a month.

Doug McAvoy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, yesterday insisted that only a wery, very small minority" of the profession would fall foul of the toughest sanctions in new competence procedures. He estimated that 900 staff currently teaching were failing so badly they would risk being removed in just four weeks after a warning over their perfor-

: Mr McAvoy made his comments after six teaching unions had unanimously supported revised procedures, which are also backed by employers, governors and churches.

The proposals, which have

still to be finally approved by ways insisted there are far fewthe schools standards minister. Stephen Byers, will slash the time needed to remove failing teachers from as long as two years to four weeks. At most, staff found to be under-performing will be given two terms in which to improve.

Mr McAvoy, speaking on BBC1's Breakfast News, based his estimate of the number of seriously incompetent staff on the proportion found to be failing during inspections carried out by the schools watchdog, Ofsted.

Out of 48,000 teachers whose lessons have been observed, 88 have been judged to be failing, scoring six or seven on a scale of one to seven.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which also signed up to the new procedures, said that the overwhelming majority of teachers were committed and very hardworking. But he added: "If a small minority of teachers are calling that commitment into question, then we need to do something about that."

Despite their duty to protect members, unions are conscious of the need to weed out those who give the profession a bad name. However, they have aler such staff than has been suggested by Chief Inspector of has claimed that there are about 15,000 incompetent teachers.

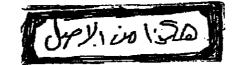
David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, welcomed the agreement. "Parents and governors and good teachers will be reassured that action will be taken where it is appropriate, and that the emergency steps can be brought to bear within a month if things have gone drastically rong," he said.

The so-called "capability procedures", published yesterday by the conciliation service Acas, are not designed to deal with problems of teacher misconduct or ill-health.

Where teachers are found to be failing to teach to an acceptable standard, they will be given improvement targets to meet. Despite initial opposition from unions, the agreement provides for the removal in four weeks of staff whose incompetence jeopardises children's education.

However, following union incompetence" proposed by local authority employers has not been included in the final

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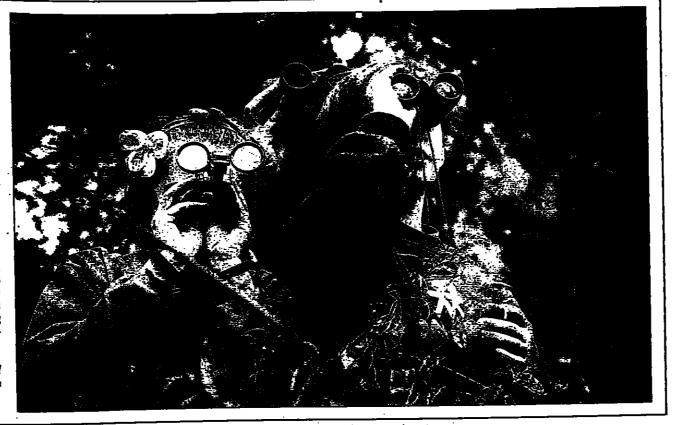


All eyes turned on world of birdwatching

More than 90 countries are this weekend participating in the 1997 World Birdwatch.

Events are taking place at Royal Society for the Protection of Birds sitesall over Britain. Yesterday, in Battersea Park, children from the South London Montessori School (pictured right with Neil Anderson of the RSPB) received lessons in birdwatching. They were among 23,000 children from 357 schools who were taking part in Schools Birdwatch eys-

For information on weekend events, contact World Birdwatch Hotline 01273 299399



Private security firm brands people criminals

A private security company has plastered posters around a city naming alleged "criminals" and accusing the men and women of a range of offences including murder and drug dealing. The police say the move by SAS Patrol Group is irresponsible, and fear it could lead to vigilante attacks. The posters include addresses and photographs of the accused people. At least one man is considering suing the private security firm.

The posters have gone up in an exclusive residential area in the west of Bristol under the headline "WARNING". They feature people that the security firm claims are burglars, car thieves or drug dealers. One lists the names and addresses of thirteen men, another lists nine men and a woman. They carry details of the alleged crimes and hours of operation. One man is described as a killer.

One of the named men plans to take legal action against the firm. He strongly denied the claim that he is "a major receiver of stolen goods, the number one criminal in Sea Mills and violent". He said: "I will be seeing my solicitor about this. The worst thing I have ever done was steal a moped when I was 15."

Andrew Burke, who founded SAS Patrol Group, said: "I stand by everything that is on the posters. Let them sue me, the more the merrier. Everything on the posters is true anyway. I hope they've got van loads of money as I've got special libel insurance covering me for £10 million. I hope to make them all bankrupt. Mr Burke said the information had come from his own security men and police of

ficers who work in the area. An Avon and Somerset Police spokesman said: "We would not support this sort of action. We have found in the past that this sort of information is based on supposition and rumour." The incident is the latest example of vigil anti action by private guards. The Home

Office is currently considering whether to introducing a licensing system for private security firms, which currently go unchecked.

lason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK **SOMEONE** YOU DON'T LIKE.



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, and you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org or visit our homepage at www.samaritans.org. We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us - any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

> The Samaritans We'll go through it with you.

Home Office pays £20,000 to Jamaican seized at Gatwick

A West Indian detained by immigration officers after arriving in ... Britain on holiday accepted £20,000 agreed damages from the Home Office to settle his claim for false imprisonment.

Peter Honegan, 32, a motor mechanic from Jamaica, was detained at Gatwick airport on 21 December 1993 after arriving to spend Christmas and the New year with relatives. His solicitor Louise Christian told Mr Justice Morland in the High Court in London yesterday that Mr Honegan, who had a return ticket for 17 January 1994, was taken to a detention centre. He was served with a notice refusing him leave to enter the UK and detained.

On Christmas Eve he was moved to a cell in Gatwick police station. Ms Christian said: "On Christmas Day a High Court judge, Mr Justice Clark, granted a telephone application for leave to move for judicial review of the refusal to enter and made an interim order restraining the Secretary of State from removing Mr Honegan from the UK. Mr Honegan was granted temporary admission to the UK until January 17, 1994, and released from detention a few minutes after midnight on December 26, 1993."

Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "This case is important because Britain now detains more people under immigration powers, in the Immigration Act 1971, than any other EU country."

Sinn Fein to take oath challenge to European Court



Sinn Fein said yesterday that it was prepared to fight all the way to the European Court to win access to the facilities of the House of Commons after Martin McGuinness lost the first round of a court battle yesterday to challenge the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

The party insisted it would not give up after Mr Justice Kerry ruled in the High Court in Belfast that the Mid-Ulster MP could not apply for a judicial review. Mr McGuinness had sought to challenge a ruling by Speaker Betty Boothroyd that he and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, MP for West Belfast, could not use the facilities of the Commons because they had not taken their seats. To take their seats the two men have to swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen - which they have refused to do.

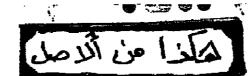
The judge said the Speaker's ruling lay within the realm of the internal arrangements of the Commons and was therefore not subject to a judicial review. "The House is entitled to unfettered control of its own internal arrangement."

CORRECTION

The name of the architects mentioned in "The pick of British architecture now" (Independent, 23 September 1997) should have read Cornelius McClymont, and not as printed.







Mutiny in the ranks sours regimental reunion



The issue of whether wives can accompany a dwindling number of Second World War veterans to a reunion lunch has led to something resembling a mutiny in the ranks. Tojo Moyes charts a peculiarly English battle.

Next Thursday will see the annual reunion of the First Household Cavalry Regiment. Usually, these gatherings are occasions for solidarity and goodwill. But this year it has become the unlikely battleground for a bad-tempered dispute between the Duke of Wellington and his old soldiers.

For the past 50 years, veterans from the Household Cavalry who served before or during the Second World War have been meeting at an annual reunion at Hyde Park Barracks in London. Due to their age, numbers have inevitably dwindled, to the point where there was a question over the event's future.

Charles Farrow is a 78-yearold former Royal Horse Guards trooper from Sussex, who spends his retirement "riding a 3.5 litre V8 engine tricycle which terrifies small children, old ladies, horses and siblings (and, optimistically, "live-in-lovers"), who had prein rously been allowed entry to the barracks, but had to wait for

the men in a separate room. His idea says Mr Farrow, received the "overwhelming support" of all the soldiers present.

of Wellington, ignored the soldiers and reinstated the embargo on women.

place not in the trenches, but via the Post Office. The exchange of correspondence has left Mr Farrow accusing the Duke of still behaving as if the men were his subordinates. Meanwhile, the exasperated representatives of the Duke have suggested that the "confounded Mr Farrow stay away.

The dispute began in February, when Mr Farrow wrote to the regiment's dining club asking why "such a small change had been vetoed - I have always felt that it was humiliating, especially for wives, to have to sit alone in the bar waiting for their menfolk to conclude their celebration".

The refusal, he claimed, could not be on security grounds, as women were allowed to wait in the barracks, nor could it be a case of sexual discrimination "as this would be against the law. In June, the Duke replied.

saying: "I am not prepared to countenance any alterations to the arrangements already made for this year's luncheon." He took "great exception" that Mr Farrow should consider raising "a domestic and private matter" with the press, and asked him to desist.

Mr Farrow considered the myself". At last year's event, he Duke to be pulling rank, and of-"May I point out that it is now more than 50 years since any of our surviving members were subject to the rules and regulations of the British Army ... The fact that you seem determined to ignore is that an unelected cabal of just three men But following this decision, the have seen fit to arbitrarily re-

regiment's president, the Duke verse the democratically expressed wish of our members," he replied.

For the Duke's representa-The ensuing battle took tives, this may have been seen as something close to mutiny. On 31 July, Mr Farrow received a letter from the club's assistant secretary: "Dear Farrow (sic), Since our last reunion dinner you have proved to be a confounded nuisance. I have had enough! If you do not like what is on offer, the best option you have open to you is to stay away. Yours very, very truly ...

Mr Farrow did not buckle. Here was a man, after all, who had been "chased all over the Western Desert by Rommel", and wounded in Normandy.

"The tone and content of the letter that I have just received from you really worries me. I cannot help but think that you are losing your grip on things and I am truly sorry if the strain is proving too much for you," he replied. "One would have thought that, after 50 years, those of us that survive. from top to bottom, could think of themselves as a unified band of old warriors - comrades. Bound only by friendship and no longer restricted by rank.

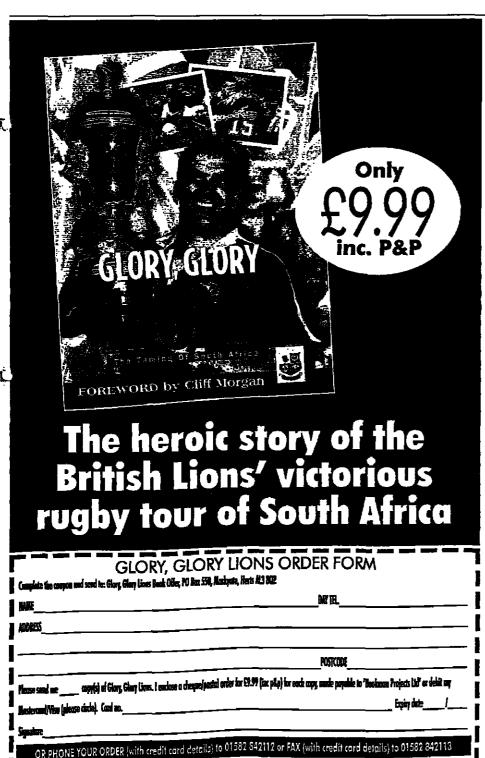
But it just ain't so." Despite the unpleasant tone of the correspondence, Mr Farrow said yesterday that there may be hope for a truce. He had just received a "communication" informing guests at the lunch that there would be a diswives should be allowed to attend future reunions.

"I consider that I may have won the battle but not the war," Mr Farrow said yesterday. "In the meantime, another year will have gone by where the wives cannot attend, and there will be even fewer of us left."



Fighting spirit: Charles Farrow on his motorised tricycle near his home in Seaford, East Sussex. Top: In Palestine, 1940 Main photograph: Peter Macdiarmid





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There's a Great Deal going on

Attempted suicide casts a pall over Australian politics

The attempted suicide of a senior opposition MP accused of fiddling his expenses has inflamed the debate in Australia over standards in public life, and cast a shadow over Prime Minister John Howard's attempts to improve them. Robert Milliken looks at a sorry affair.

nocked yesterday after a suicide

attempt by a leading opposition

MP who has been under fire in

travel allowance claims when he

was staying at his mother's

of the Labor opposition in the

Senate, the upper house, was

rushed to hospital in Canber-

ra vesterday after a staff mem-

ber found him apparently

had left a note overnight at Par-

liament House in the bureau of

a news agency, in which he apol-

ogised for behaving "stupidly".

The agency raised the alarm

British-born Mr Sherry, 42,

unconscious in his flat.

Nick Sherry, deputy leader

house in Tasmania.



to news agency

Australia's political world was when he failed to answer the phone at his Canberra flat. Mr Sherry was described as conscious and in a stable condition Parliament for making false

The drama came after a week of uproar in the Australian parliament over a version of political sleaze knows as the "travel rorts" affair ("rort" is an Australianism for fraud or rip-off). The conservative coalition government, led by John Howard, and the Labor opposition, led by Kim Beazley. have hurled accusations over MPs abusing their right to claim daily allowances when on parliamentary business.

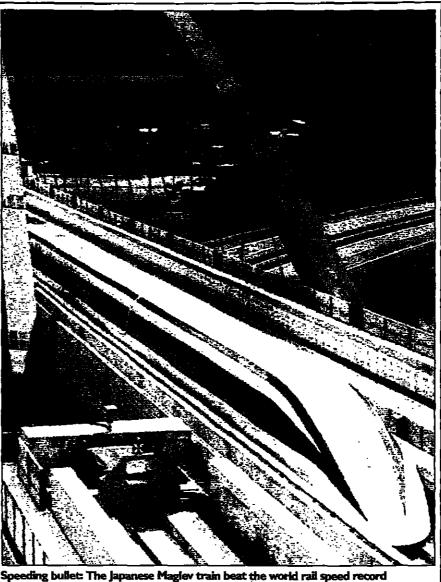
The affair has already claimed the careers of three

ministers who resigned a week ago after revelations that they had paid back large sums of invalidly claimed allowances, or had covered up such repayments. Three civil servants also quit over their involvement, one of them Mr Howard's most trusted adviser. Over the past few days, the

government has turned the attack on to Labor, particularly Mr Sherry who comes from Tasmania. They accused him of claiming a total of A\$43,000 (£19,000) for official stays in Hobart, the Tasmanian capital, when, in fact, he was staying for free with his mother. But Mr Sherry's suicide at-

tempt yesterday brought a chill to the scene. The affair has highlighted a mounting cynicism among Australians towards their political leaders, particularly as Mr Howard came to power in March last year promising new standards of propriety in public life.

It has now emerged that many MPs saw abuse of the travel allowance scheme as a way of making up for what they regard as their low rates of pay. A federal backbench MP in Australia receives a basic salary of about A\$80,000 (£36,000) be-



yesterday by clocking 451 kph on the test track at Yamanashi, Japan Photograph AFP

Campaign funds probe into Gore

The chief law officer of the US is expanding a judicial inquiry into the activities of Vice President Al Gore. It is claimed that his moneyraising efforts for the Democratic Party during the last presidential election broke the law. The decision could have serious implications for Mr Gore's future career, says Mary Dejevsky.

The decision of Janet Reno, the US Attorney General, to extend the inquiry into the Vice President follows an 11-month investigation into whether Mr Gore broke an 1883 law which limits the ways in which politicians may raise party funds. The main allegations concern telephone calls Mr Gore is said to have made from his White House office to solicit contributions to the Democrats.

According to US newspaper reports, citing White House telephone accounts, he raised millions of dollars from hundreds of calls made during the 1996 election campaign. The law makes it an offence to use federal premises for raising

party funds. Mr Gore - who has made no secret of his ambition to suc. ceed Bill Clinton as president in 2001 - has admitted making calls, but insists that what he did was legal. Both he and Presign dent Clinton - who could face a similar investigation - have accused leading Republicans of engaging in a witch hunt.

While the Gore camp played down the significance of: Ms Reno's decision, they were clearly preparing for furthertrouble. If, as is considered likely, the 60-day investigation announced yesterday results in the appointment of an independent. prosecutor - so taking the caseout of the political domain for the first time - this would virtually guarantee that the investigation would continue into the next presidential campaign in 2000, raising serious questions about Mr Gore's. prospects for election.

Mr Gore has already hired a leading lawyer, James Neal to advise him. The appointment however, who is also a family friend from his home state of. Tennessee, is already causing Mr Gore further grief, follow-: ing revelations that he is providing his (very expensive);

HURRY! SALE ENDS OCT 19TH!





SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Sun 11-5. Northern Ireland exceptions: Mon 10-6, Wed 10-9, Thurs 10-9, Sun 12-5.

Bush gets German honour

Former US President George Bush, honoured by Germany for his efforts to end the Cold War, said yesterday that the country's unification had captured the world's imagination and paved the way for a safer future. Speaking at a ceremony on German Unity Day, marking the seventh anniversary of unification, he said the former Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had played important roles in reuniting Europe. But Mr Bush, president when the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989, said the Iron Curtain was not torn down by political leaders in Washington, Bonn or Prague, but by people who craved freedom.

Chirac's euro pledge

President Jacques Chirac said yesterday that France and Italy both wanted to be members of the single European currency from 1999 and would do what was necessary to reach it. He reiterated his support for Italian membership at the end of a Franco-Italian summit in Chambery in the French Alps where Prime Minister Romano Prodi met him despite the government crisis simmering back home in Rome. — Reuters

Indonesia punishes log firms

Indonesia yesterday revoked logging licences of 29 timber firms implicated in fires responsible for choking smog across much of southeast Asia. The official Antara news agency said the move followed an ultimatum to 176 companies to account for their actions after satellite data images showed so-called fire hotspots on land licensed to the firms. The deadline expired on Thursday.

Second quake: hits basilica of St Francis

Another powerful earthquake rocked central Italy yesterday, causing more damage to the frescoed interior of the 13th century Basilica of St Francis in Assisi. The quake followed two similar-strength tremors a week ago which killed 11 people, flattened mountain villages and brought part of the basilica ceiling crashing to the ground.

Yesterday's earthquake. which struck while firefighters were working on the historic church to patch up last week's damage, caused part of the exterior wall just under the roof to crumble. The debris fell inwards wreaking further havoc inside the basilica. One friar was hit by falling masonry but no one was seriously injured. "The earthquake was shorter than the one on Friday (last week) but the damage before is now more evident than it was." Father Nicola Giandomenico said.

Thinking of buying a computer?

increasingly important part in our lives. But how much should you pay for a system? And how do you know a PC will suit your needs? Help is at hand! Practical. straightforward and reliable. The Which? Guide to Computers explains all the jargon. It's ideal for home users and small businesses alike and takes you.

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Whether you are renting or

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For landlords there's advice on what sort of tenancy to grant rents and deposits
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Computers are playing an step by step, through the buying buy what you need - and not what the salespeople want to sell you [Surviv

Tax-efficient ways of passing on property

bill? Then read The Which? Guide to Giving and Inheriting Easy to understand, and with case histories throughout, the book explains how to use the tax system to increase the value of our gifts, enabling you to plan ahead and control your finances. In fact, "it could be the wisest investment you will ever make" (Irish News).

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Would you like to pass on money covenants . estate planning and property without wrapping • making and updating a will your gifts in an unnecessary tax • special rules for family Scotland the National Lottery passing on property.
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9/DIANA REACTION

Author unrepentant over Diana 'autobiography'

Author Andrew Morton has come under bitter attack for publishing transcripts of tapes made by Diana, Princess of Wales. Michael Streeter finds Morton insisting he has behaved honourably and accusing his critics of hypocrisy.

When it was published five years ago, Diana - Her True Storyicaused a public furore and made a fortune. The updated version, due out on Monday, is proving almost equally controversial and could lead to legai action from the executors of the late Princess's will. It will also prove very lucrative for Morton and his publishers.

The first wave of condemnation came last week over Morton's announcement that the original book had been in taken legal advice about Diana's own words and was in effect ber autobiography.

But the fresh revelation that Morton has sold the transcripts Story - In Her Own Words. of his interviews with the Princess to an American magazine, People, for more than £100,000 has produced even greater outrage.

The 18,000 words, spoken by Drana on to a tape at Kensington Palace and then passed to Morton by an unnamed in-

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his original book but have nev- permission on tape to Morton of hypocrisy. er before appeared in publicly available print. Extracts will appear in the new book.

They are said to form a devastating and intensely personal account of the Princess's engagement and marriage to Prince Charles; all in her own

Although the transcripts provide little new of substance, the shock comes in reading the bitterness of Diana's own words in criticising her husband and family.

Critics, who include MPs. churchmen and - reportedly members of the Royal Family itself, criticise Morton for cash-Princess's death and of subjecting her children to yet more details of their parents' unhappy

Diana's executors, who include her sister Lady Sarah Mc-Corquodale and their mother Frances Shand Kydd, have now whether they can stop publication of the transcripts and the updated book Diana: Her True

Yesterday, there was no comment from the Princess's office at Kensington Palace, but legal experts thought that while Diana may retain copyright in her own words, it was an arguable case.

The feeling was that the uncertainty of the legal status of termediary, formed the basis of her words - handed with her

- and the risk of prolonging publicity through the matter in the courts would dissuade the executors from action.

In any case it may be too late - early copies of the book are on sale in central London and People magazine is already on the news stands.

Last night Earl Spencer and his family were still consulting with lawyers on "various points" and were said to be "very distressed and saddened" by the publication of the book.

Morton himself was unrepentant yesterday. Clearly irritated by the personal attacks from tabloid newspapers which have in the past fed off his words, he accused his detractors

Saying he was proud to have been chosen to write the book, he added: "I think I have behaved extremely honourably throughout this episode."

Mr Morton, who is said to have made £4.5m from the original publication, defended making the transcripts public when Diana's young sons were still grieving.

derstand their mother, they would want to read her He also denied selling the entire tapes to People magazine

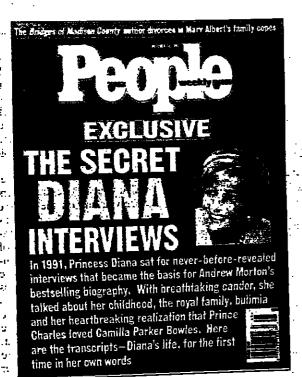
"If they really wanted to un-

The author described Diana's words as "her legacy, her

- just "extracts from the new



Hot seat: Andrew Morton leaving LWT studios yesterday after a television interview



Big issue: The US magazine People, which paid over £100,000 for transcripts of the tapes

Survivor of Paris crash flies home

Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the car crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, one month ago, left hospital in Paris vesterday and flew home to Britain.

The Payed family bodyguard was taken in a Harrods helicopter to an undisclosed destination, believed to be a convalescence clinic in the London area. French investigators said that they expected to travel to Britain to interview Mr Rees-Jones, 29, again in about two weeks' time.

During his second meeting



roperty

Rees-jones: Suffering partial amnesis

with detectives, on Thursday, the former paratrooper was able to provide some fresh evidence on the chain of events leading to the accident in an underpass beneath the Place de L'Alma in central Paris in the early hours of 31 August, But, once again, he was unable to recall anything of the accident itself or much of the high-speed urive from the Ritz Hotel which proceeded it.

Sources in the investigation told Le Figaro that Mr Rees-Jones had been able to identify, from photographs, several paparazzi who had behaved aggressively towards Diana's party earlier in the day. He also confirmed that it was his boss, Diana's companion Dodi Fayed, who devised a decoy plan to escape the photographers. It was this scheme that put the Ritz deputy head of security, Henri Paul, at the wheel of a high-powered, armoured Mercedes that he was not qualified to drive. Mr Rees-Jones apparently said that he had been against the plan. Both Mr Paul and Mr Fayed died in the crash.

Autopsies on Mr Paul's body have revealed that he had been drinking heavily and had taken prescription anti-depressant and mind-calming drugs. Mr Rees-Jones says he showed no signs of intoxication or unsteadiness before taking the wheel of the Mercedes. The hodyguard also told detectives, according to Le Figuro, that Diana showed no particular interest in the arrangements.

Mr Rees-Jones suffered grave facial injuries and less serious head and chest injuries in the crash. As is often the case with victims of head injuries, he is suffering from partial, and maybe temporary, amnesia. Yesterday he was able to walk unaided as he transferred between helicopters at Issy-Les-Moulineaux. He wore a large plaster-cast on his left forearm, his lower face seemed puffy and swollen and there were bruis-__ John Lichfield, Paris



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10/LABOUR CONFERENCE

Blair pays tribute to party progress

A hint of more money for the NHS was given by Tony Blair yesterday, at the end of his first party conference as Prime Minister. Anthony Bevins, political editor, witnessed a barnstorming end to the week

A rip-roaring speech from John Prescott, a fist-raising rendition of the "Red Flag" and a cool assessment by the Prime Minister ended the Labour Party conference

After a week in which the leadership again suffered no defeats at the hands of its activists, the Tony Blair recognised that some party members were still clinging to the "old tunes", like renationalisation of

"I think there are some old tunes that get everyone going," he said in a BBC interview. "But I think what is interesting is that people know they're old tunes and no one really believes, in this day and age, that we should go back to the ways of the past."

Nevertheless, he clearly sought to reassure party and public that he would do all in his power to avert winter crisis in the hospitals, saying that a close watch was being kept on the situation.

"I am not going to get into the position of announcing new sums of money," he said, "but we are putting in, of course, an additional £1bn over and above the Conservatives' spending plans next year, and we're watching very closely the situation this year."

The Prime Minister confirmed that he was considering setting up a judicial inquiry into the introduction of BSE into cattle and the human food chain. "I don't think it is right for me to comment until we make the final decision, but it has been the most appalling problem," he said.

In his wind-up, the Deputy Prime Minister ridiculed the Tories and their new leader, saying that when they went to Blackpool next week. Conservative representatives would be getting the result of their one-member, many-votes ballot for one leader - "Just William".

"William is running against nobody," Mr Prescott said. "It could be quite a close thing. But either way, let's face it, a nobody is bound to win."

He also said that the Tory party was rather like a "wonky supermarket trolley - it pulls to the left, it pulls to the right, but you just can't get it to go forward."

Mr Prescott said Labour and the country should never forget what the Conservatives had done.

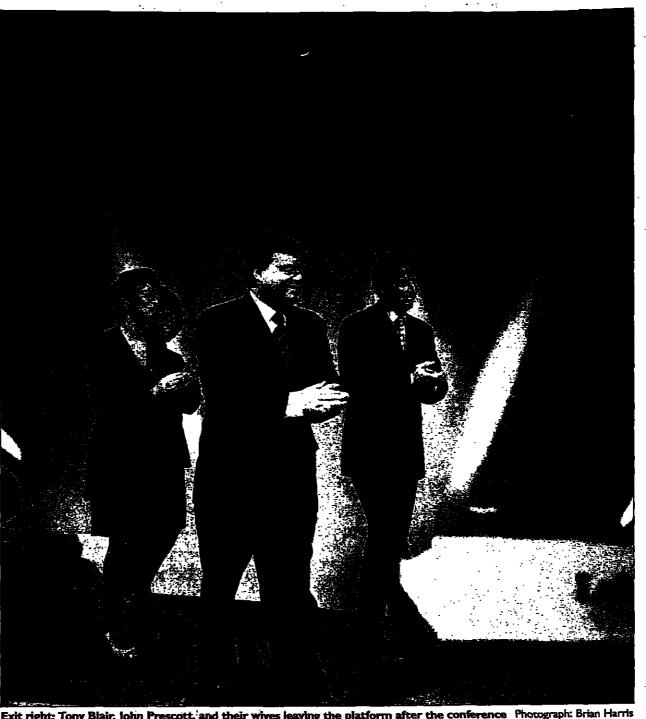
But he added: "Now that we've won that famous victory, the most important thing is always to stay true to the people we represent, to deliver on our promises to the

He said the Government could win the essential, second, five-year term of office to complete its task if it carried on modernising and facing up to tough decisions.

"This is about the hard choices of government, not merely the easy words of opposition," he warned.

 A further revelation about John Major's style of government has been delivered by Chris Patten, the former governor of Hong Kong, who says in an interview on Channel 4's Bye Bye Blues tomorrow night, that after he had sent him out to the colony, Mr Major occasionally asked him to give up the job and come back - even though he was engaged in negotiating the this year's critical handover to

"It was raised with me on one or two occasions by him and by others," Mr Patten says. "I think be would have liked it if I had been around to take some of the heat and the pressure off him."



Exit right: Tony Blair, John Prescott, and their wives leaving the platform after the conference Photograph: Brian Harris

Cabinet hint for **Mandelson**

A strong hint that Peter Mandelsone could be promoted to the Cabinet was: delivered yesterday by John Prescott the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson suffered a setback on Monday, when rank-and-file mean bers did not elect him to the party's ruling national executive committee; preferring Ken Livingstone, the veteran left-winger. But Mr Prescott pointed out yesterday that under a rule change pushed through in Brighton this week, while it was now impossible for Mr Mandelson to be elected to the NEC, he could yet be appointed to one of the new executive places reserved for members of the Cabinet.

The suggestion that Mr Mandelson might join the Cabinet caused some surprise - since Mr Prescott and Mr Mandelson have not been known as Labour's bosom buddies. "Sometimes we've found ourselves on different sides of the argument and we've both got the kind of temperament where we express that," Mr Prescott told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. But he insisted: "We get on all right ... There's no doubting the professional abilities of Peter.

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"I'm sure Peter would probably have got on the executive - but we are now changing the rules so that probably won't happen unless he is appointed from a Cabinet."

Tony Blair is thought to be planning to make Mr Mandelson Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in place of David Clarke, and in charge of a revamped Cabinet Office machine that would, in effect, become the Prime Minister's Office.

— Anthony Bevins





The Early Learning Gentre

On selected items only.

PM's poll winners put their skills up for hire

The Prime Minister's polling adviser Philip Gould has gone into business with the aim of becoming the Saatchi & Saatchi of discusses an ambitious plan to exploit commercial interest in the May landslide

election victory

James Carville, the "Ragin' Cajun", and the pollster Stan Greenberg were credited with winning the presidency for Bill Clinton. Philip Gould thought that they could weave the same magic for Tony Blair and recruited two of the most famous names in political campaigning to help in the general election campaign.

Now they hope there will be a big corporate market for the secrets of "modernisation", as companies scramble to learn the lessons of Labour's highly professional campaign and its opinion research techniques, many imported from the US.

Their joint venture, called Gould Greenberg Carville NOP, has taken over all opin-

ion research for the Labour Party from NOP, which retains a role as one of four equal shareholders: It was a poll for the new company which found thought Tony Blair was doing racial elections. a good job as Prime Minister, and only 3 per cent a bad job. The findings were leaked by Labour to the press as its Brighton conference opened last weekend.

The new company promotes itself as a "strategic research consultancy and sets out its mission as "to work for reformist, modernising and inclusive institutions seeking to adapt to a new era of change" Mr Carville and Mr

Greenberg met Mr Gould when he was drafted in to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1992 to advise the Clinton campaign how to fight Republican attacks copied from the British Conservatives. Mr Gould had worked for

Labour in a key behind-thescenes role in two losing elections, and both sides learned from each other. After President Clinton took office, Mr Carville and Mr Greenberg looked abroad for opportunities to help win elections for centre-left candidates.

Mr Carville worked for Constantine Mistotakis, the Greek Prime Minister, while Mr Greenberg took time out to work for Nelson Mandela that 93 per cent of people in South Africa's first multi-

They returned fringes of Mr Clinton's re-election campaign last year, but had also started to take a close interest in the coming British election.

Mr Greenberg flew from the US to be part of the Millbank Tower team during the campaign, and will spend one week a month in London on the new venture. Mr Carville gave advice by telephone, but is expected to fly to London later this month to launch the company. However, his role is likely to be mainly to lend credibility, especially with potential American clients.

Winning elections can mean big money in the private sector, as the Saatchi brothers and their former colleague Sir Tim Bell showed. They built their advertising agency into a business with global pretensions on the strength of the 1979 Tory win. Sir Tim then. cashed in on his role with a successful loobying and corporate strategy company,

Shining stars of the darkest political arts



Philip Gould

An obsessive political junkie, he gave up a career in advertising after selling the agency he created. He is now a central figure in the modernisation of the Labour Party, close to Mr Blair and an ally of Peter Mandelson.

Responsible for polling and advertising at Millbank HQ in the election, he was trusted by the party leader to tell him what the public really thought. He is a great believer in focus groups, informal discussions with small groups of floating voters, which he always conducts himself.



A left-wing academic turned centrist polister. Greenberg was one of the architects of Democratic Party. He identified the swing

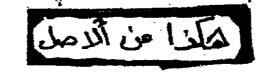
voters of McComb county a blue-collar area outside Detroit, as the key to wresting the suburbs from the Republicans - the Basildon of American politics. He helped develop Bill Clinton's platform: ending welfare as we know it. tough on crime, on the side of the "forgotten middle dass" who "work hard and play by



James Carville

The crazy hero of Clinton's 1992 campaign, he was the inspiration for the unconventional style of the Little Rock war room. As a spin doctor, he bewitched the media with his quick Southern wit and passionate

commitment to the cause: He became even more of a media star after the election, marrying Mary Matalin, George Bush's spokeswoman, who had ended the campaign by screaming at him for helping elect "a slime, a scum, a philandering, pot-smoking, draft-dodging pig of a man .



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The promise people are marching on Washington

More than half a million American men are expected in Washington today for a six-hour extravaganza of hymn-singing, prayer and contrition - in the name of Christian family values. To many, the rally is a sign of hope; to some, including some women's groups, it has a sinister side. Mary Dejevsky explains.

loday's mass gathering in the Washington Mall, the broad thoroughfare more used to carnival parades and protests than prayer meetings, is called "Stand in the Gap", a phrase taken from the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel who "looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land, so I would not have to destroy it". Ezekiel "found none"

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The organisers, hoping to succeed where the prophet failed, are Promise Keepers, a seven-year old organisation led by a football coach turned evangelist, Bill McCartney, that has grown from a core of fewer than 100 who attended the first rally in Denver seven years ago to a nationwide organisation with more than one million members last year and an income of almost US\$100m (£62m).

Although its founder, Bill McCartney, like the majority of members, is white,

ever age and ethnic group, who are prepared to sign up to seven promises, which include "honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's word", "building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values" and a commitment to church attendance and participation.

Its supporters, of whom there are very many across a broad political and social spectrum, place the movement in a benign American tradition of male Christian movements, from the muscular Christianity of the early years of this century, through the Boy Scout movement.

They note approvingly that it lacks the racial element of Louis Farrakhan's exclusively black Million Man March of two years ago - with which today's rally is sometimes compared. So, thousands of men are committing themselves to Christian and family values; what is so wrong with that?

Two things, according to its critics. One, especially for its female critics, is its male exclusiveness and emphasis on male authority. If it is so serious about family values, they say, why is it that women are kept out? And - a concern, voiced strongly by Patricia Ireland, leader of the National Organisation of Women - why the emphasis on female submission and obedience within the family? The Promise Keepers movement is seen by Ms Ireland and others as an attempt by men to take back the ground that women have gained thanks to the women's movement, put women

membership is open to all men, of what- back in the kitchen and make them subservient to their husbands. Bill McCartncy defends the movement's maleness by arguing that because men are at the root of so much that has failed in society, it makes sense to call them to account. Some female supporters of Promise Keepers say that the sense of responsibility and involvement in the family that men acquire when they join the organisation simply makes them better husbands and fathers and - despite the teaching that the husband is head of the household - does nothing to restrict the wife's freedom.

The other criticism is that Promise Keepers has a right-wing conservative agenda and is intended to be the fifth column of the religious right and the Republican Party for the next presidential election, taking over where the declining Christian Coalition left off. Mr McCartney denies any political agenda, and says his anti-abortion views are personal and not imposed on the movement.

In any case, Promise Keepers may just have peaked too soon to have a major political impact. Income and attendance at rallies this year has fallen by one third a decline that today's rally will arrest.

By yesterday morning, armies of professionals and volunteers were erecting huge screens and a giant platform on the how many would turn up?



The Pope joins battle in Brazil's war of religion

The Pope arrived this week in Brazil. ostensibly to push family values. Catholic church officials admit, however, that the pontiff is keen to stem the flow of Catholics to evangelical churches throughout Latin America.

As Phil Davison reports, both sides have called it a holy war.

Rio de Janeiro city authorities erased the offending red ink in time for Pope John Paul's arrival. But not before the defaced posters of the pontiff had shocked Brazilian Catholics.

At least half a dozen giant billboards erected to welcome the Pope on Thursday had gun sight targets painted in red over his heart. Others were covered in the sort of graffiti that are routine in Protestant areas of Belfast but would have been unthinkable during the pontiff's first visit to Brazil, South America's biggest Catholic country, in 1980.

Thousands of Brazilian troops and police fanned out through Rio's hillside favelas (slums) before the Pope's arrival, detaining drug gang leaders for the duration of the pontiff's four-day visit. Beggars, the homeless and street children were moved to temporary, supervised accommodation.

The authorities were concerned at John Paul's decision to travel past the favelas and to stay at the home of Rio Cardinal Eugenio Sales, perched on Sumare mountain amid seven poverty-drug-and violence-ridden shanty towns. Stray bullets from the slums killed 33 people last year.

But stray bullets were not the main concern of the 26,000 troops and police called in to protect the Pope. Catholic churchmen blamed the graffiti on "radical fundamentalists", widely seen as a reference to extremists among the growing American-style evangelical churches in Brazil and throughout Latin America.

More than half a million members of various evangelical churches held a noisy outdoor rally in the city of Sao Paulo on Sunday in a clear effort to upe the hundreds of thousands now flocking to see the Pope in Rio.

Archbishop Lucas Moreira Neves said the anti-papal graffiti was aimed at provoking Catholics into a reaction and called on police to identify and arrest those who defaced the Pope's image. "Catholics are not bellicose, nor preoccipied with this holy war, but the lack of respect for our faith could prove a factor for reaction."

In 1970, 92 per cent of Brazilians considered themselves Catholics. By 1991, the figure was just above 80 per cent and may now be down to 75 per cent, pollsters say. Increasingly disillusioned with Vatican dogma in the face of the modem television world of soap operas, Brazilian Catholics have often become easy converts to evangelists who promise miracles and business success.

Recent surveys in Rio found 84 per cent favoured birth control, 76 per cent thought abortion should be permitted in cases of rape, 74 per cent thought priests should be allowed to marry and 54 per cent approved of non-marital sex. When the Pope came to Brazil in 1980, there were less than five million evangelical Christians. Now there are 15 million, 10 per cent of the population.





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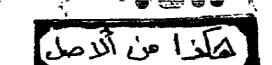


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Bibi flounders in sea of troubles after Hamas fiasco

Israel has released Sheikh Yassin, the founder of Hamas, just as it was demanding that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, put Hamas leaders in jail. Jerusalem is clearly already feeling the consequences of the capture of two of its

Critics of the Soviet Union in the Eighties used to refer to it as "Upper Volta with rockets". Adapting the phrase, an hobserver in Jerusalem this week said Israel was acting like "Upper Volta with rockets and a Washington lobby".

agents in Jordan after a

failed assassination bid.

No doubt it is very unfair to use Upper Volta as a benchmark for political underdevelopment. But the attempt to assassinate a member of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, in the streets of Amman, shows Israel as a country which, despite its armed strength and influence in the United States, is now responding to political challenges in a very primitive way.

The sheer zaniness of the assassination attempt by Mossad, of the Israeli foreign intelligence service, on Khalid Meshal, the head of the political bureau of Hamas, is only beginning to sink in. Even supposing it had succeeded and Mossad had got clear away, the death of Mr Meshal would not have crippled Hamas, which would probably have responded with more sui-

cide bombs. But if it went wrong; as it did.

then the outcome was wholly predictable. King Hussem signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, which has never been very popular in Jordan. Suddenly he discovers that Mossad feels free to carry out an assassination in his capital. No wonder, going by Israeli press reports, he telephoned Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, threatening to break off diplomatic relations and demanding the antidote to the poison used on Mr Meshal.

Israel then released Sheikh Yassin, the spiritual leader and founder of Hamas, to molify King Hussein. But in doing so it left its policy towards Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in tanters. For months Mr Netanyahu has been insisting - and has got President Bill Clinton and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, to echo his words - that Mr Arafat had to arrest members of Hamas. Furthermore, he was to destroy its "infrastructure" by closing Hamas schools, clinics and social services.

Now, just when Mr Arafat was complying, Israel releases the head of Hamas, his prestige enhanced by eight years incarceration. It will be virtually impossible for the Palestinian Authority, in these circumstances, to keep Hamas members locked up. Nor will Sheikh Yassin take kindly to the continued closure of Hamas charitable organisations, which he helped establish and on which some 50-60,000 of the poorer Gazans rely.

Mr Netanyahu has so far been spared the renercussions in Israel of the release of Sheikh Yassin and the failed assassina-. tion because of the start of the tanyahu authorised the mission.



Time off: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu swimming in the Mediterranean on holiday in the summer, before returning home and continuing his policy of inflexibility in response to political challenges

Jewish New Year. But it is probable that he would have had to approve the Mossad operation. And if he did so, Israelis will ask questions about his judgement. If the attack had succeeded he

would have gained little. If it failed, as it did, then the consequences were likely to grave. Nor is the Amman operation the only one to have to have failed in recent weeks. Early last month, 11 Israeli naval commandos, the élite of the Israeli military élite, were

killed in an Hezbollah ambush far north of the Israeli occupation zone in Lebanon. They were reportedly there to kill a leader of Hezbollah, the Islamic guerrillas, though in this case they were betrayed by a Lebanese double-agent. Again the likelihood is that Mr Ne-

In fact the Israeli Prime Minister's recipe for dealing with his country's relations with Palestinians, Lebanese and Jordanians is very simple. He argues that there was no real need

BY PATRICK **COCKBURN**

for the previous government of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister assassinated in 1995, and Shimon Peres, his successor, to make the concessions they made at Oslo. Instead, the Arabs can be faced down. If they object then Israel can use its military superiority and political strength in Washington to force them to back down.

The attack by Mossad in Amman, the naval commando raid in Lebanon and the pressure on Mr Arafat to arrest all members of Hamas, show that Mr Netanyahu believes his diagnosis that "terrorism" against Israel is separate from real political grievances. Get rid of ter-

rorism, he argues, and then

Israel will talk about peace. The truth is very different. Until there is a final settlement between Israel and the Palestinians there will probably be suicide bombs. Hamas did not invent them. They were used with massive effect in Lebanon against US and Israeli troops in the Eighties.

Indeed, Mr Netanyahu has himself ensured that suicide bombs will go on by saying that he will not implement Oslo if there are more attacks. This, of

course, gives an immediate indesire to change, to adapt to the centive to those in Syria and outside world. Iran, who detest Oslo themselves, to plant a few bombs so

mentation of the agreement. Probably Mr Netanyahu can survive the débacle in Amman. He is lucky that it happened just before a holiday in Israel. He can claim that the needs of national security pre-

Mr Netanyahu can serve their

purposes by stopping imple-

vent him from telling all. But the image of Israel as Upper Volta, buttressed by nuclear weapons and an immensely influential lobby in Washington, is more than just a jibe. Acquisition of nuclear missiles was a great advantage to the Soviet Union in terms of the balance of power with its adversaries. But the confidence the missiles inspired stunted the Photograph: Roni Schtser

In the same way Israel's nuclear arsenal and its Washington lobby makes Israel a politically rigid place. Concessions are denounced as an unnecessary weakness. Problems in neighbouring countries are handled by raiding parties - two of which have come so spectacularly to grief in the last month.

 Israel expressed regret over Canada's recall of its ambassador following the arrest of two men with forged Canadian passports in Jordan after an attack on a leader of Hamas. Canada's foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy on Thursday said the envoy had been recalled for "immediate consultations" and that Ottawa took "great exception" to the use of false Canadian documents.

US aircraft carrier sent to patrol in the Gulf

The United States navy has told the crew of the aircraft carrier Nimitz to skip a port call in Singapore and hurry to the Gulf, close u an area where Iranian aircraft have hit targets in Iraq, and Turkey has carried out raids, the Pentagon said vesterday.

The Nimitz was on its way to the Gulf anyway, but by missing Singapore it will arrive by the middle of the month, four or five days earlier than planned.

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The triangle of territory where Syria, Turkey and northern Iraq meet saw a sudden escalation of tension this week, with Turkish jets attacking Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas in Iraq, and Iranian warplanes on Monday striking a rebel base near Kut. 105 miles (170km) south-east of Baghdad. Kut is within the part of southern Iraq that the US declared a no-fly zone to prevent Iraqi attacks on Iraqi Shia rebels.

Yesterday, Syria and Iran deployed troops near the Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq raided by Turkey. "There is information that Syria ... is carrying out a deployment only 30km from where our border meets northern Iraq," Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said. "Iran continues to deploy troops along its border with northern Iraq."

The London-based Iraqi opposition group Iraqi National Congress (INC) confirmed the deployments.

Around 15,000 troops, backed by air power, are taking part in the Turkish raid, the second major strike into Iraq this year.

— Agencies



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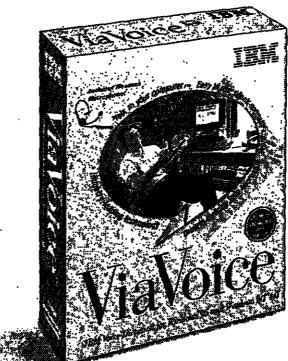
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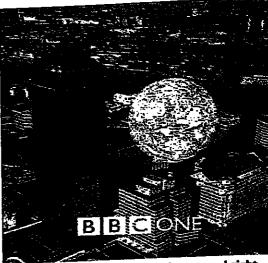


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BBCI's image to have corporate make-over





Floating about: Viewers tuning into BBCI this morning will see the channel's new image - a bright





The BBC is responding to the digital revolution - and devolution - by flying a hot air balloon across the United Kingdom. Rob Brown, Media Editor, says it is not as daft as it sounds.

Successful branding, the obsession of car makers and the marketers of other fast-moving consumer goods, is a trick television companies are fast struggling to learn as the multichannel era ushers in unprecedented competition for

The BBC is determined to more than match its commercial rivals on this front and ensure that its television and

radio networks maintain a strong profile in a fast fragmenting media marketplace.

Which is why from 6am today viewers who tune into BBC1 will, in between programmes, start to see a big bright red globe-shaped balloon floating above Eilean Donan Castle, Canary Wharf, Cardiff City Hall and seven other distinctive landscapes and cityscapes across the UK.

Unveiling the channel's brand-building new look at Television Centre yesterday: Alan Yentob, the BBC's director of television, conceded that the existing BBC1 globe had never on as the wacky "2" logos.

"BBC1 needs an identity which is more flexible and aphas always been associated with over the next three years on a

the BBC's flagship channel and the choice of a balloon seemed to us an imaginative way of emphasising the universal appeal of this network. I do believe this is a memorable image which will allow the channel to embrace the whole

Six of the 10 initial "idents" were shot in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, confirming the corporation's desire to be seen to better serve the so-called "national-regions" a desire which has clearly risen since the Scottish and Welsh devolution referendums.

of the UK."

Re-branding the BBC maingenerated as much public af- stream channel is costing just over £500,000, but the new identity will be seen up to 10,000 times a year. The corpealing," he said. "The globe poration aims to spend £5.2m

new corporate image, reviving the elegant typeface created by designer and sculptor Eric Gill in the 1930s.

The updated logo has been developed by the award-winning brand identity expert Martin Lambie-Nairn to work both on and off-screen. It will be emblazoned on everything connected with the corporation. from its office stationery and fleet of outside broadcast units

to the listings in Radio Times. Pam Masters, the BBC's Director of Broadcasting and Presentation, said: "At a time of unprecedented competition in broadcasting and the impending explosion of new digital and widescreen channels and serportunity to reappraise its identity and, in particular, make it suitable for use on screen."



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Schoolboy or City gent, conkers players all search for the secret of a tougher nut

leas

Science joins search for a conkering hero

It's a tough nut that even scientists find hard to crack: what should you do to ensure that you have a winning conker, which when drilled and threaded on string will beat off all comers?

It is not a trivial question: for example, the World Conker Championship, being held tomorrow outside Nottingham. are expected to attract 800 people, all of whom take their sport deadly seriously.

But should you pickle it in vinegar, or bake it in an oven, or both? Or is there another answer?

Readers of New Scientist magazine reckon that they know. In reply to an anguished query asking "Which method produces winning conkers, and why?" the

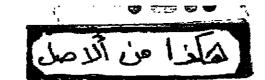
scientific readership was quick to respond. "Do not put your conkers in vinegar," advised Patrick Wigg of London sternly, explaining that though this hardens the shell it can weaken the flesh - "making the conker useless." He advised baking at Gas Mark 1. (The Independent's executive news editor has determined empirically that this causes raw conkers to explode.)

"I always soak them in vinegar," said Michael Dutton, of Gloucester. "This hardens them into champion conkers." However, he admitted that: "I was content with this method until a few years ago when I was beaten by someone who had smeared his conker in Oil of Ulay. Apparently, this made the conker more

malleable, allowing it to absorb the impact of my prize pickled nut."

Nick Aitchison said: "Pickling rots the inside. Varnishing is also ineffective (and readily detectable)." Instead, he - and at least two other respondents - recommend laissez-faire: put your conker in a drawer for a year and leave it alone. "The older they are, the harder they are."

Such as show of scientific indeterminism has apparently proved too much for New Scientist. "As such disputes are an essential part of the sport, we leave the question with the totally contradictory answer given," wrote the editor. But, presumably, it'll be back next year.





Please dad, can we go to Legoland instead?

Britain's top tourist attractions are drawing more visitors than ever before.

1000 50.50 5 4443

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> But, as Amanda Kelly discovered, it is not just the traditional choices that are pulling in the crowdş.

The plastic world of Legoland is a more popular choice for an afternoon out than the grand walls of Buckingham Palace, according to a survey published today.

The toymaker's pleasure park beat off competition from 20 other leading sights opened between 1992 and 1996 to become Britain's top new tourist attraction.

In the year since it first opened its doors in 1996, more than 1.4 million people went to see the model village in Windsor, Berkshire, which is made entirely out of the children's plastic building blocks.

Joanna Oswin, a spokeswoman for Legoland, Joanna Oswin said: "We are strongly rated by the kids themselves and playground cred is high. We have thrills of a different kind and rides on a different scale - providing excitement, adventure, interaction and fun. With parents, it's the

strength and quality of the Lego brand."

The next most popular attraction was Deep Sea World at Queensferry in Scotland which had 403,319 visitors, while Buckingham Palace came in third place with 398,000 visitors, although it is only open to tourists for two months of the year while the Queen is at Balmoral.

for the tourist boards in Eng- lion paying customers and land, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, showed that overall there were 402 million visitors to attractions, with spending by trippers up 10 per cent to a record £2.1bn. The

adults was £2.58. Of the destinations which were open before 1992, Alton Towers came top for the fifth consecutive year with 2.7 mil-

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The survey, carried out

The top 20 attractions opened bet

Deep Sea World, North Queensferry

Birmingham National Sea Life Centre

Royal Armounes Museum, Leeds

Eureka Museum for Children, Halifax

Anything to Declare HIM Customs

World of Coronation St. Blackpool

Lost Gardens of Heligan, St Austell-

Loudoun Castle Theme Park, Galston

Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, London

Amazonia, Bowness in Windermere

Denbies Wine Estate, Dorling

Stapehill Abbey Crafts and Gardens, Wimbonne

Farness South Lakes Wild Animal Park, Dalton in Furness

Breadalbane Folklore Centre, Killing

Buckingham Palace, London

charge admission, are:

Legoland, Windsor

Museum, Liverpool

Tate Gallery, St. Ives

Exploris, Portalierry

Museum of Liverpool Life,

Fantasy Ireland, Portrush

Attraction

The top 20 new attractions

the most popular free attraction was Blackpool Pleasure Beach, with 7.5 million visits.

But it is not just theme parks and fairgrounds that have enjoyed a successful year. Visits to museums and art galleries jumped 5 per cent to 79.6 million, visits to wildlife attractions were up 7 per cent to 22.4 million, while visits to farms rose between 1989 and 1996 by 65 per cent.

The growing popularity of period television dramas has also helped to boost the number of people visiting some of the country's most picturesque historical buildings. The appearance of Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire as the setting for the film of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice helped it to pull in 64,670 visitors, while Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire, where Moll Flanders was shot, attracted 64,935.

A spokesman for the English Tourist Board, said: "It has been a really good year for the industry. I think this is partly down to the large amounts of money being invested in better facilities. Thorpe Park, for example, hasd recently opened the darkest and first-

ever backwards roller-coaster ... The attractions are also marketing themselves better so people are finding out about places they wouldn't otherwise know existed."

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16/IN THE COURTS

Man freed after RUC murder charges dropped

Republican to seek compensation from the DPP after being cleared for the second time in a year in connection with terrorist killings.

A man walked free from a Northern Ireland court yesterday after a double murder charge against him was dropped and then he condemned the system which put him behind bars for the second time for a crime he did not commit.

Colin Duffy, 29, has instructed lawyers to seek compensation after the Director of Public Prosecutions dropped charges of murdering two Royal Ulster Constabulary The officers were shot dead by the IRA

in his home town of Lurgan, Co Armagh during the summer. It is the second time that Mr Duffy's name has been cleared in connection with

terrorist killings. In September last year, he was released from prison after serving three-and-ahalf years when the Court of Appeal

quashed a life sentence for murder. A week after the ambush of the two policemen on 16 June this year Mr Duffy was

arrested for a second time, despite protesting his innocence.

After walking free from the magistrates' court at Lisburn, Co Antrim, where the charges were withdrawn following an action earlier in the Northern Ireland High Court, Mr Duffy expressed his delight at being free - but anger at having been arrested in the first place.

"My reaction is quite plain and simple. obviously I am delighted at being released." he said, adding that once again he had been arrested for something he had not done.

"It is an indictment of the system as a whole, from the RUC right through to the courts. Until this system is changed there isn't going to be any justice in this part of

Mr Duffy claimed that the case against him had been manipulated and he said he felt "a lot of anger and frustration at the

He added: "It has taken over three months to get me released. The evidence hasn't changed since the moment I was

The DPP decided to drop the case against him after the credibility of an unnamed female witness who allegedly wit-

nessed the murders was questioned. Mr Duffy said that he did not feel anger towards the woman, but sympathy. "I know what the RUC are like. I don't blame her for it at the end of the day," he said.

Mr Duffy said that he had been arrested because he was a republican, adding "that's all that is needed". His solicitor Rosemary Nelson con-

firmed t hat she had been instructed to begin civil action over the case. "This matter has caused the gravest concern in legal circles, amongst internation-

al civil rights bodies and public representatives," she said. Mr Duffy's pregnant wife, Susan, who lives with her eight year old daughter. Catrina, in Lurgan's republican Kilwilkie es-

doesn't mean he should be arrested for everything that happens in this town." Sinn Fein said the release of Mr Duffy confirmed that there had been a concerted and vindictive campaign against him and

tate, said: "Collie is a republican, but that

The party's northern chairman, Gerry O hEara, said that people should now be left in no doubt about how corrupt the police



The defendants (L to R): Philip Bates, Nicholas Oettinger, Ian Barlow, Darren Bartlett, Matthew Tupling, and Andrew Stout

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Rape trial told of woman's distress

A former boyfriend of the barmaid who claims to have been gang-raped by six soldiers yesterday told how she stopped him hunting down the men hours after the alleged assault. The man, a former

boyfriend of the 23-year-old woman, said he became angry when she returned in tears late on the night of 23 May last year to the flat they shared. He told Oxford Crown Court: "She was red and had

clearly been crying. I asked where she had been but she just dashed into the bathroom. I began talking to her friend who was with her but was told she just wanted to be by herself. She then came back into the room and said she was sorry she had been away so long.

one of them had got rough with her. I was putting two and two together and was getting very angry. I went outside with the intention of going to the barracks but she stopped me.

"It later came out that she had been raped and I wrote down the names that she gave to me. I later gave that paper to the police.

The prosecution alleges that six soldiers took turns to rape the woman after sharing a sauna with her at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire.

Capt Philip Bates, 26, of Bordon, Hampshire, Capt Ian Barlow, 29, of North Allerton. North Yorkshire, Lt Darren Bartlett, 24, of Arborfield, Berkshire, Lt Matthew Tupling, 24, of Bordon, Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire, all deny the charge.

The court also heard from the woman's GP, Dr Gavin Bartholomew, whom she consulted two days after the alleged attack.He said: "She was quite distressed by the duration of the "She said she had been incident and she said the sex drinking with the soldiers and was very painful. I told her the allegations were serious and it was important to get a forensic examination. But she told me she did not wish to do that or get in touch with the police.

> "She had one small bruise on her right thigh but I could not say how old that was ... There was nothing to suggest rough handling of ber." The trial continues.

: Ny

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Gangs take over the drug-flooded Flats of South Africa

A year after pictures of Muslim yigilantes publicly executing gang leader Rashaad Staggie were transmitted around the globe, open warfare has broken on the Cape Flats.

As innocents die, the South Airican police are impotent in the face of crisis.

Now was the time to light a candle against the darkness, the vigil organiser told the bundreds of terrified residents who filled Cape Town's City Hall

They came to seek refuge from the violence-ridden Cape Flats, home to the city's poor coloured (mixed race) population. Even as the choir burst into song and the wax began to drip, the war between gangsters, who control the Flats, and the Muslim vigitante group Pagad continued, with tit-for-tat attacks on mosques and alleged drug-dealers' homes.

It is more than a year now since the conflict first burst on to our television screens with the horrific public torching and execution by Pagad supporters of Rashaad Staggie, 40, who with his twin Rashied headed the Hard Livings gang.

Since then Pagad has continued its war with the gangsters who flood the Flats with mandrax, dagga (cannabis) and harder drugs. Once, Pagad supporters marched in their thousands to the homes of dealers chanting "Allah is great" and demanding that they leave the neighbourhood. Now they have become urban guerrillas, turning up, masked, in the dead of night, to assassinate dealers. They are spurred on by the calls of spiritual leaders who declare that "the time for killing" has come.

Herman Kriel, premier of the Western Cape, warned recently that Pagad had become as much a threat to order as the

In the last few weeks it is the innocents who have died in even greater numbers than usual. A baby was burned to death in a grenade attack which also blew off her Solder brother's leg and badly burned her mother and sister.

Despite Pagad's insistence that it was not responsible for the death and injuries, police say the vigilantes mistakenly targeted the family; the local mandrax dealer lived further up the street. In another incident Pagad beat and shot a man they mistook for a dealer.

If the vigilantes are mis-hitting, so too are the gangsters. Last week Dr Mogam-



mat Dharsey was shot dead in his practice surgery. A gang had apparently assumed that he was a Pagad member just because he had attended the funeral of a friend who was. Muslim traders are also being killed because the gangsters believe that they are funding Pagad.

The violence, which has so far been contained to the sandy flats to which tens of thousands of coloureds were banished during the apartheid years, is spiralling out of control. It now poses a real threat to South Africa's blossoming tourist industry.

The government is struggling to find a solution. Last week 300 extra policemen were promised for the area, although only 70 actually arrived.

Publicly, ministers refuse to negotiate with the gangsters although behind the

scenes talks are going on. This week President Nelson Mandela supported a decision not to back a local police initiative to hold talks with Pagad.

The African National Congress is suspicious of Pagad, which it claimed has a wider Islamic agenda, and may be backed by hard-line Islamic govemments. The government prefers to focus attention on claims that

a Third Force is inflaming the violence, after a bizarre allegation by a young prisoner this week that prison officers were allowing inmates out each night to terrorise the Flats. During the last years of apartheid there were persistent allegations that a mys-

64-bit 4Mb Graphics

terious Third Force was behind much of the violence in the country

The trouble is that in this drama none of the main players - Pagad, the gangsters or the police - are what they seem to be.

The birth of Pagad has BY MARY alllowed the gangs to present themselves as vic-**BRAID** tims. Once-bitter rivals have banded together to form Core (Community Outreach Forum) and

have marched on parliament to demand that the government deal with them as the creation of a racist past.

Apartheid, according to Rashied Staggie, made the gangsters. "We did it to survive," claimed Rashied, who argues that dealers will pack up shop if the government creates employment on the Flats.

From their local shebeen headquarters, Core adapts Marxist class analysis to present its members as downtrodden members of the coloured working class and Pagad as middle-class Islamic intellectuals who have no notion of what it takes to survive. Playing on the alienation of a coloured population which believes it was "never white enough for the Nats and now not black enough for the ANC", Core says that the new government does not care for the coloured community.

The gangsters' reinvention of themselves is disingenuous. Handsome Staggie, in designer jeans and mirrored shades, drives around in a flash four-wheel drive and owns property all over the Cape. Pagad argues,

War zone: Violence between Pagad supporters and the drug dealers on Cape Town's Flats has spilled over, bringing death and injury to the innocent in the community as vigilantes and gangsters mistake their targets

Photograph: Gerald Haberman

rightly, that the drug barons have grown rich by inflicting misery on the poor. But it faces a hard battle for hearts and minds.

Rashied Staggie, labelled as a psychopath in prison, is seen as a modern-day Robin Hood by an ambivalent community. And while Pagad can bring thousands of ordinary people on to the streets, so too can the gangsters. "He drives past local schools throwing 10 rand notes to the kids." said one local community worker. "He pays people's rents and provides local jobs." Like any prominent businessman he sponsors the local football team.

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Staggie can afford the best that money can buy, including, it is rumoured, public relations consultants. He has taken to speaking at school assemblies where he tells children that he has given up the drug trade and warns them to shun the gangs.

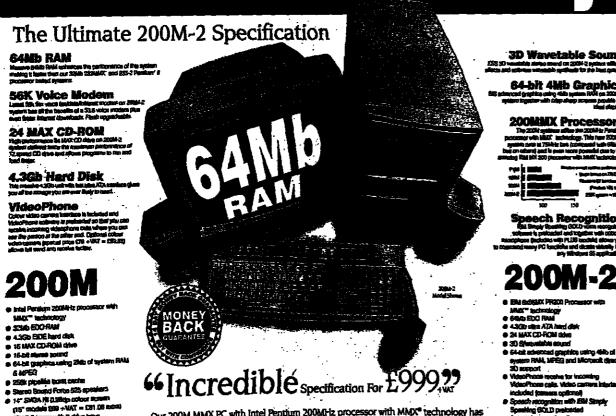
Heart-warming stuff, but hogwash according to Pagad's national commander, Aslam Toefy. "Core is nothing but an organised crime syndicate," he said, adding that lighting candles is no protection against crime.

Wilfred Scharf, a criminology professor at the University of Cape Town, concurs that Core, hemmed in by new anti-gangster laws, is trying to protect a business which has enjoyed considerable growth since the end of apartheid opened South Africa up to the international drug trade.

Unfortunately, the expansion came just when the criminal justice system - and the police in particular - was in transformation and least able to cope. The police combating the war on the Flats are hampered by the corruption that riddles their ranks. Many officers have long-standing ties with the gangs which were used by both sides during the apartheid years. "Favours are still owed and information still has to be suppressed," Professor Scharf said.

In this mire the government - and the honest cops - must find some light. Third Force investigations may not be that outlandish. "It would not surprise me and 1 am not a conspiracy theorist." Professor





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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Britten's Henry James opera 'The Turn of the Screw' was premiered in Venice in 1954. It finally made its Royal Opera debut on Thursday night, as did the production's director, Deborah . Warner. So how did the ghosts of Bly take to the Barbican stage?

The kiss which Peter Quint tenderly plants on the forehead of the dying boy Miles in the closing moments of Deborah Warner's new production of Benjamin Britten's The Turn of the Screw will of course be misconstrued by those who insist upon trawling through the composer's private life in search of contemporary answers to this opera's many questions. To others, it will come as a benediction, a fond but chaste farewell to innocence, to youth, to life and love misspent. Warner has a lot - a whole

BY EDWARD SECKERSON

lot - to answer for. Which is precisely why her production (the Royal Opera's first of this piece) is so intriguing. And compelling. And provocative by virtue of not being provocative. Ambiguous without striving to be. Scary because it's ambiguous. Like Henry James. Warner doesn't run from the uncomfortable questions that this story poses, nor does she underline or seek to answer them. She torments us with them. And that is scary.

So what are those questions, and why do they unsettle us? What exactly was the relationship between Quint and the previous governess. Miss Jessel? (Remember Michael Winner's film The Nightcomers, with its sado-masochistic overtones?) How exactly did Quint "make free" with Miles? (His words, "I'm all things strange and bold", suggest a wild one, a bit of a rebel.) Were Quint and Jessel simply the unacceptable face of permissiveness and promiscuity, robbing their young charges of their innocence, awakening in them the first stirrings of puberty? Could be. Such things were not spoken about, let alone flaunted, in the England of James's novella. Better yet, though, is the eerie tale simply a projection of the new Governess's own erotic fantasies? Is she the victim of a powerful infatuation with her employer - the children's unseen

guardian? Could be. In the scene where the Governess is first alone with her new surroundings, lolling about on the lawn, feeling, perhaps, a certain inexplicable "arousal", wishing her employer were there to see how well she was doing, the hint of rapture, the charge of excitement in her words (and the way in which



The Quint-essence of innocence? Miles (Edward Burrowes) lies dead in the arms of his Governess (Joan Rodgers)

Lost souls in a labyrinth of desire

ment that she first sees Quint and believes him to be the children's guardian.

It's a significant case of mistaken identity (or is it?) and Warner goes for it with intent by placing Quint at such close proximity to the Governess (not "distant", as prescribed, not some fuzzy apparition in one of the house's high towers) that he is at once tangible, real, hers. And you can smell the fear and self-loathing, the guilt. The feeling that she, not Quint, is the intruder, the interloper, gives the whole scene, the whole opera, an interesting new perspective, an extra twist, a further turn.

It's the could-bes of this staging that make it so intriguing. The world we enter. a dead, dread space, trees nestling uncomfortably in a concrete, scaffolding-clad shell (set design: Jean Kalman and Tom Britten sets them as a fragrantly erotic pas- Pye), appears like some sort of halfway succeeds in making Britten's actual torale) is inescapable. And it's at that mo- house between this world and the next. The mas (free and adventurous as Quint is wont ing up too soon.

tall, thin, louche figure (an ethereal lan Bostridge) who silently makes his way through the darkness, from a door upstage to the incongruous grand piano downstage, belongs here. Indeed, it is as if the real "visitors" to this story are the living, not the dead. come to confront their fears, their prejudices, their desires. So the "ghosts" move freely, casually, through this environment. shadowing, "parenting" the children (whose own sense of reality is unhindered) while their protectors look on. Quint is no longer just a shadowy figure, but in the room with the Governess, vindictively knocking over a vase of flowers in order to make his presence, his displeasure, felt. He helps make

up Miles's bed, for heaven's sake. He is sung - wonderfully and with immaculate diction - by Ian Bostridge, who to be) at once beautiful and subversive (all those near-quarter-tones). Physically, he is an adornment, draping himself around the production.

In Vivian Tierney, we have a singer and a performance almost 100 good, 100 intense, for the underwritten role of Miss Jessel; in Jane Henschel, the kindly, well-meaning but stupefyingly straight-laced Mrs Grose assumes almost Wagnerian proportions - a thrilling amplitude. Joan Rodgers is the Governess, trapped in her labyrinth, unable to keep a handle on her authority, and singing (splendidly) on the edge of an ecstasy she cannot, dare not, reveal. The children - Pippa Woodrow (10) and Edward Burrowes (12) - are terrific. Flora spinning deliciously out of control in a perpetual flurry of curtsies and cart-

The real miracle of Britten's masterpiece, though, is in the resourcefulness, the atmosphere, the shifting subtexts of the instrumental writing. Clarity and ambiguity co-exist in his tiny orchestra. You could take away the voices, you could take away Myfanwy Piper's sometimes preposterously fanciful text, and still keep Henry James alive. With Colin Davis at the helm you certainly could.

But Warner takes us still further into this psychological labyrinth. She turns a huge, uninviting space into a small, dark recess somewhere at the back of the imagination. With a little help from lighting designer Jean Kalman, the shadows are suffocating. Further performances: tonight, Mon, Wed, Thu and Sat 11 Oct, 7.45pm, Barbican Theatre, London EC2 (booking: 0171-304

A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, has prepared a time-capsule to bury in the foundations of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside. The ceremony will be attended by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, next Tuesday.

Maggi Hambling has designed a brooch for the capsule, which will . also contain Paula Rego tiles and a David Hockney poster. It will even have a piece of Swiss mountain crystal chosen by the architects to bring "good karma" to the building.

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Even more mystifying to future generations (and visiting Martians) will be Mr Serota's fountain pen. But perhaps they will see what we may not: that this is the pen that signed the sponsorship deal for the Turner Prize and signalled the rise of installation art over painting. It is a piece of conceptualism all by itself.

The autobiography of the late Sir Georg Solti has been rushed out. following the conductor's death last month. It is described as "candid". But, for the most candid revelations, we may have to wait for the outtakes. As publishers Chatto admit: "He was much more candid about his love life originally. But he, his wife Valerie and the editor read the proofs and took some pieces out."

The musical vignettes, however. remain intact. Solti recalls how he once asked Stravinsky why he had changed the orchestration and simplified the score of The Rise of Spring 30 years after it was first published. Igor candidly replied: "Because I couldn't conduct the original - it was too difficult for me."



Solti also met Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, who'd been at the 1913 Paris premiere of The Rite - a real riot, by her account: "Such fun! We jumped on stage and attacked the dancers with our umbrellas." An excellent means of heckling demonstrative and painful, yet refined in the classical manner.

Thoroughly monotonous Maddie

The makers of Maddie - not to mention a certain daily paper whose readers stumped up the £150,000 to bring it into town ~ cvidently think that it's our patriotic duty to love this show. A Brit team, you see, hasn't had a musical in the West End since 50 odd years later, comes back Sunset Boulevard. So, nothing to invade the body of another loath, I wrapped myself in the Flag and virtually threw myself at the stage in the effort to oblige, Trouble was, I kept meeting myself coming back wearing a slightly stricken expression.

Penned by Shaun McKenna and Steven Dexter, with music by Stephen Keeling, Maddie is set in San Francisco and tells the story of a peroxide Twenties starlet who was killed en route to a Hollywood screen-test and who, woman. This latter and her museum curator husband (Graham Bickley) have just moved into Maddie's old apartment. where, to make a dodgy marriage worse, hubby develops an

obsession with the dead woman. It's a rum thing: a musical about a body with two identities that has no identity of its own. You keep being reminded of everything from Blithe Spirit to On a Clear Day You Can See Forever. Nothing will ever remind you of Maddie. An unnerving physical cross between Bette Midler and Maureen Lioman, Summer Rogalic shifts, with rapacious vigour, to and fro between the unhappy wife and the raunchy teeth 'n' thigh-baring nuated predatory scapot (played

nothing to disguise the fact that both gals are bores to the core.

Inevitably, Maddie has one of those hollering "This Time It's ME!" Act I curtain-numbers - and when Ms Rognlie decides to sell a song, you buy it, or else. Inevitably, too, relations between the two differently unfulfilled women settles down to one of soggy sisterdom. When, by accident, Maddie invades another body - that of a superan-

Maddie - but the script gives her by Lynda Baron as a reprise of comparison. The show doesn't the Mae West she did at Southampton) - the comic potential is under-explored in favour of a song in which Maddie tells the wife that, in seducing her husband, she's really done her a favour: now she knows she has to work on that marriage...

The husband is a case-study in himself: the idea of making love to a strange woman who is using your wife's body as a vehicle makes outright infidelity seem quite a moral business by

make nearly enough of the tragi-comic creepiness of this idea. In fact the whole shebang has a depressingly ersatz feel. It tots up the sum of its influences and arrives at the wrong number. For the most part, it's not what possesses its heroine that preoccupies you, but whatever possessed anyone to put it on. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave,

London W1 (0171-494 5045)



Paul Taylor Maddie: a thigh-flashing bore

Photograph: Robbie Jack

THE WEEK IN REVIEW ADRIAN TURPIN

THE FILM

Volcano

This year's second volcanic disaster movie lays waste to LA. The fact that there isn't a volcano anywhere nearby hasn't deterred the scriptwriters: lava gushes from between the city's shifting tectonic plates. Tommy Lee Jones plays the crisis manager who has to deal with this geological novelty. Expat Brit Mick "The Bodyguard" Jackson directs. On general release.

Not a complete disaster, thought Adam Mars-Jones, even if it is haphazardly constructed. "The humour works best when it isn't spelled out," he concluded, "the building of the American Lung Foundation, for instance, wreathed in smoke". The Telegruph admired Jones's blend of heroism without narcissism. "If an actor can walk through a film without stretching himself and still be magnificent, he does so." "Many filmmakers have used LA's geological instability as a metaphor for moral uncertainty," mused The Guardian. Not here. Volcano "settles for a one-dimensional view of the most significant city of our time".

Nothing to get in a lava about, although it's always good to watch Tommy Lee Jones hamming it up.



THE PLAY

The Invention of Love

Richard Eyre bows out from the National by directing Tom Stoppard's new play. The Invention of Love deals with the poet AE Housman's unrequited desire for his Oxford contemporary Moses Jackson. Old Housman meets his younger self, Oscar Wilde flits by, and Stoppard's familiar preoccupations with language and memory abound. In rep at the National Theatre, 0171-928 2252.

Paul Taylor was bowled over. "I have probably made this work seem less witty and diabolically clever than it is," he concluded. "But it was the emotion that got me." Like most of the critics, he praised John Wood's performance as old Housman. The meeting between old and young Housman was "almost unbearably moving". The Financial Times agreed: "Some of the finest, most passionate, and most disarmingly brilliant dramatic writing that Stoppard has given us," it raved. But The Guardian was less sure: "Stoppard at his best and worst. The Latin learning is laid on with a trowel. At the same time the jokes are very funny.

We expect Stoppard to appeal to the head, but here he conquers the heart as well.

A triumph.



THE CONCERT **Bob Dylan**

Bob Dylan's British appearances were cancelled earlier this year after he collapsed with a beart complaint. But you can't keep a rock legend down. He began the week by playing in front of the Pope, before kicking off his UK tour in Bournemouth. After enduring years of shambolic, rambling, mutter-filled gigs, his fans were hoping for a renaissance. Playing Wembley tomorrow (0181-900 1234).

"He disappointed in giving us what he thought we wanted," complained Nick Hasted. "Singing some of his finest work, he seemed uninterested in its meaning". Not so, argued The Guardian: "Dylan seems to have rediscovered the notion of melody, and was making sincere efforts to sing and not croak... we had better make the most of this new, super-charged Dylan, because it may not last." "I never realised that a Bob Dy-lan concert could be such fun," enthused The Telegraph, even if the singer did sound at times "like a camel with a frog in its throat". Lively stuff, agreed The Times. "Drawing the pension is clearly the last thing on his mind".

Nice to find him putting a bit of effort in for once, even if it is strange to see rock's great miserabilist looking so cheery.



In the Eye on Monday: Jasper Rees meets Andrew Motion, friend of Larkin, Diographer of Keats, Plus Martinu's 'Julietta' reviewed

THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

The great history mystery unexplained

"The past is difficult," stated the protagonist of The House of Doctor Dee (Radio Monday) at one point. A trite remark, not especially well put, but at least it's unarguable. The past is the one foreign country we can never hope to visit; we must construct our picture of it using unreliable and often contradictory information, mostly gleaned from guidebooks written by people who have never been there - or, at best, have a confused recollection of its fringes.

Oddly, though, and also a little annoyingly, The House of Doctor Dee was constructed around the opposite view: here, time is an illusion, the centuries reach out to one another, and the past turns out to be about as difficult as a trip down to the newsagent's - just as in a number of Peter Ackroyd's other yarns. This is mostly, I suppose, because he has some firm convictions about the circularity of time and the possibility of an ongoing relationship with the past. But, at times, it does feel as if what drives his fiction is not so much conviction as convention, when he seems to be stuck inside a genre just as firmly as Barbara Cartland or Agatha Christie. It's just that his genre - the time-bending, mystical, London novel ~ is a little more unusual.

In this case, the plot revolves around a house in Clerkenwell that was once the property of the Elizabethan magus John Dee, and in our own time has passed to young Matthew Palmer. As the story pro-

gresses, it emerges that Matthew is a foundling, and that his late father believed him to be a magical homunculus created by Dee and fated to die and he reborn every 30 years. Over the centuries, the homunculus has been instrumental in, among other things, nurturing the careers of Isaac Newton and Charles Babbage, as well as working on radar during the Second World War. Meanwhile, back in the past, Dr Dee discovers his friend and fellow magician. Kelly, to be a fraud and a traitor. Matthew concludes he is not a homunculus; and he and Dee speak to one another across time, declaring the hope that, through "vision and imagination", they can dissolve the illusion of the reality of time, and London will be-

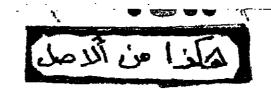
come "the mystical city universal". A nakedly silly story, in Alan Drury's dramatisation veiled with wisps of meaning. If Claire Grove's production had punctured the pomposity, offered some faint sense of irony, it would have been easier to respect it; as it was, she took it all with a very straight face, which probably made it more enjoyable. In fact, it was huge fun; but for all the wrong reasons.

Still, even when Ackroyd plays fast and loose with time and history, he writes with the understanding that they are problematic. The Cuban Crisis (Radio 2, Tuesday) - marking the 35th anniversary of the US blockade of Cuba - was one of those frustrating programmes which seems to think

that a sense of period can be faked up with a bit of old newsreel, vox pops and a couple of hit records. The narrative was streamlined enough, but a recital of events was insufficient to conjure up the atmosphere of apocalyptic paranoia that the script seemed to aim for. A wider view might have helped; as it was, the listener was left with a sense of impending nuclear catastrophe as something quaint and provincial that our parents experienced in

A profounder understanding of the difficulties of untangling the past lay behind What Are They Looking At? (Radio 3, Sunday). Piers Plowright's feature, one of his last before he retires from the BBC, was gentle, thoughtful and playful - an examination of the many things that Jan Van Eyck's The Arnolfini Marriage might mean. The picture's many ambiguities (most famously, is she pregnant?) were presented from the point of view of experts and members of the public, with interpolations from the painter himself.

The tone was perpetually questioning, even good-naturedly badgering, until the very end when, disappointingly, it settled on an answer: that what the picture shows, unambiguously, is the traces of its own making, both the circumstances in which it was painted and the character of the artist. An answer that's no answer, it would have been hetter to leave the question hanging.



Better to be a boxer than to be bullied to death

When we heard that 13-year-old Emma Brammer planned to pull on big gloves and risk her beauty in the ring, the public condemned her. But the death of Kelly Yeomans, a teenager taunted into taking an overdose this week, demonstrates how important it is for young girls to feel strong and confident. jojo Moyes reports on the making of two victims.

"When they smash gloved fists into each other's heads and faces, the mainly male audience will be cheering. But this is no ordinary contest. The two opponents are 13 year-old schoolgirls wearing nothing but a skimpy vest and shorts."

Thus Emma Brammer's first attempt to win a flyweight title was sensationally publicised this week in one newspaper. This seems a demented extension of equal opportunities," said Dr Bill O'Neill, of the BMA. "I am totally against it," said Henry Cooper, former heavyweight champion. "Women are made for loving and not hitting." These were some of the more restrained comments.

Attitudes to women's participation in contact sports have always been ambivalent. But rarely have they raised feelings to this level. Boxing is one of the few spheres in which the specific aim is to damage one's can't manage anything physical."

opponent. This sits uncomfortably with what we expect from a young girl. While there is a kind of beauty in the battered face of the male boxer, a woman bearing the scars of battle is more likely to prompt thoughts of a "punchbag"; her scars are somehow uglier - and more readily associated with victimbood.

Emma didn't see it that way. She felt strong. "It's not about going into the ring to hurt your opponent. It's about style, making sure you avoid getting walloped and scoring points with technique," she said. "I wear a breast and groin shield and a protective helmet. It's not as dangerous as judo, karate and kick-boxing, and it's a brilliant way of keeping fit." Despite reservations, ber parents were supportive. All sports, said her father. Derek, carried a risk - but boxing meant Emma could defend herself; a view her mother shared.

Encouraging a 13-year-old girl to be assertive is no mean feat, according to Anita Naik, an agony aunt who has just published Respect Yourself, about instilling self-esteem in teenage girls. "Girls lose their selfconfidence by the time they reach puberty, and some never regain it. Unlike boys, they disguise any triumphs they may have, but they'll always tell you all the things wrong with them. The girls that get their selfconfidence back tend to get it from whatever makes them feel stronger. Physical arguments aside, if boxing does it for ber, then good for her. Banning girls basically suggests that they're fragile little things who



Sisters under the skin: Kelly Yeomans (left) and Emma Brammer

It is hard to make an adolescent girl feel comfortable in her own skin. Most, says Ms Naik, leave school "hating PE", where they feel painfully exposed and often ridiculed. They don't exercise again regularly until their twenties, when they find it gives them physical confidence. The women I know who do contact sports are not aggressive, but they do feel good about themselves."

Compare Emma's experience with that of Kelly Yeomans, also 13. Kelly fulfilled all the things we want from a teenage girl. She was "bubbly and charming", worked hard at school, visited old people, and played tambourine in the Salvation Army. "Kelly was a lovely girl who would help anybody," said her mother, Julie. Kelly's problem was that she was too sweet, too nice. Last Sunday she took her own life, unable to cope with incessant bullying. They

her lunch. For a clumsy, plump teenager, PE was a particular ordeal.

At home in Allenton, groups of boys, roaming around in search for victims, found Kelly. And found that she wouldn't retaliate. Kelly was bullied for precisely that reason, according to her father, Ivan. "I suppose it's because we are quiet, and turn the other cheek. But, if you turn the other cheek, they just come back and give you more," he said. "It hit Kelly badly. It tore her apart. She said, 'I'm frightened, Dad.'"

Anita Naik says that no matter how supportive they are, parents cannot instil selfesteem in the young - their daughters "simply don't believe them". Kelly's family thought she was wonderful; they told her not to worry, that they had the law on their side. But the amorphous, intangible "law" seemed very distant to a 13-year-old had called her "Fatty", and poured salt over who nightly had to endure taunts of

"Fatty" and "Smelly", and bad butter and eggs pelted at her bedroom window.

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Look at Kelly's omnipresent photograph this week, and you see a victim. You can tell she knew that, when you look at the serious little face and those magnified eyes, to which her attempted smile does not carry. You wish she had been encouraged to do something like boxing; not because she could have hit back, but because the young women who do so, say it makes them feel strong. If Kelly had felt a little stronger, perhaps she would be here today.

For all the hype about "girl power", Ms Naik says her postbag is still filled with letters painfully lacking that one ingredient, "We have to encourage these girls to see their own good points and highlight all the things they're good at," she says. "That is the only way we give them a sense

The irony, of course, is that on Thursday evening Emma Brammer announced that she was pulling out of her boxing match. She couldn't cope with the criticism that had been heaped upon her since her 270-second fight was publicised.

Photographs: PA; Raymond

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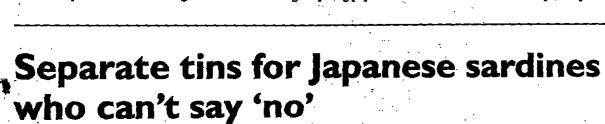
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Her mother, Elizabeth, said she was very upset. "The critics were saying things like boxing is not for girls', and saying I should grow up and get back to my senses," said Emma. "I didn't expect anything like it."

Emma hadn't even wanted to become a professional boxer - she said she wanted to be a photographer. But in the rush to condemn, no one really listened. We took the happy, strong, fulfilled one of these two young girls, and bullied her out of doing the thing that made her feel good about herself. And in doing so, we made sure that two girls became victims this week.



Groping has become such a problem on Tokyo's commuter trains that the police are pressing for women-only carriages. The scale of the nuisance contrasts oddly with Japan's otherwise low crime rate. Richard Lloyd Parry on the secretive world of the commuter pest and his victim.

Japan's trains, as any visitor to the country quickly discovers, are unique: the cleanest. most punctual and most efficient in the world. The poshest of the new bullet trains include conference rooms, nappychanging facilities and digital screens carrying the latest share prices. Between Tokyo and Osaka, after check-in times have been taken into account, it is quicker to travel by rail than to fly.

But at the humbler end of the transportation scale, commuter travel is remarkable for a very different reason: Japanese trains are home to the most highly organised, obsessive and persistent gropers in the world.

Yesterday, in Tokyo, the Metropolitan Police announced the latest initiative in an ongoing effort: Japanese railway companies are being urged to provide women-only carriages in an attempt to stamp out a nearepidemic of aggressive foudling.

of Japanese arban folklore, and most women who have commuted on busy subway lines for any length of time have their stories. Three years ago, a survey in Osaka found that nearly three-quarters of women interviewed had been groped at one time or other, many of them repeatedly. For there is more to the problem than just the opportunistic quick feel which occasionally afflicts women on crowded trains in Britain. Groping in Japan is an institution and a fetish, with a core of declicated practitioners and an even larger crowd of armchair

aficionados: The activities of the chikan take a wide range of unsavoury forms. At its most basic, they are so subtle as to be undetectable: a suspicious pressure on the legs from an unidentifiable hand in a mass of compressed commuters. But the worst kind of chikan takes advantage of the packed state of rush-hour trains for much bolder and more invasive groping. Stories are common of women alighting from a packed train to find their clothes speckled with semen, or even slashed open for better access by a



surreptitiously wielded razor blade. Recently, there has been something of Tales of the chikun, or gropers, are part a groping boom. Yesterday it was announced that arrests of chikan at Ueno, one of Tokyo's biggest stations, had doubled since the same period last year. Films featuring chikan heroes have become an established sub-genre of Japan's huge porn industry. In Tokyo's "image clubs" themed brothels, with mocked-up classrooms, changing rooms or oriental harems - there are simulated train interiors where customers can act out their groping fantasies for £100 an hour, with prostitutes dressed as office workers.

Until recently, chikan even had their own magazine, Finger Press, which contained stills from groping videos, groping comic strips and even reviews of the best groping venues. When Finger Press closed down, after "disappointing" sales of a mere 30,000 a month, its editors were besieged by pleading phone calls from tearful "armchair" chikan.

For years, the problem was treated as a little more than an embarrassing nuisance. But this is giving way to recognition of both the scale of the problem, and its human cost. The idea of women-only compart- themselves is to say 'No!'"

ments is just the latest in a series of antigroping initiatives taken by the Ibkyo police. Permanent chikan counselling centres, staffed by female officers, have been set up in Tokyo's biggest stations and sting operations have been carried out, featuring policewomen in plain clothes. In a week-long undercover operation a team of 30officers bagged 30 chikan a day on the Saikyo Line, Tokyo's most notorious, where half of all offences are committed.

On almost every other count, Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. Why should groping be epidemic in a country where as many murders occur in the space of a year as take place in America in one day? Crowded trains have something to do with it, but they are not in themselves uniquely Japanese. Perhaps the biggest reason is the failure of the victims themselves to speak out, and the reluctance of bystanders to intervene.

"Compared to other sex offences, I think that women as well as men don't have much of a notion that this is a crime," says Yumi Kakisako, a female police sergeant who works with chikan victims.

"The best thing the victims can do for



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Great scoop, Mr Morton, but the timing is a little indecent



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES, ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. **LONDON E14 5DL** TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Was Andrew Morton right to have fingered his subject as the source, indeed part-author, of Diana: Her True Story? The eager buyers in the bookshops yesterday seemed glad enough to part with their money, but Mr Morton was given a roasting by the tabloid papers for "the final insult" to the People's Princess. Much of this amounted to brazen hypocrisy, condemning Mr Morton on page 1, with full details of his revelations on pages 5,6,7, 8 and 9.

But there is a serious issue of principle here. If journalists are given information in confidence, are they entitled to break that confidence if their source dies? The answer must be, unequivocally, yes. Diana's role in making her story public cannot be taken to her grave. If in five years' time a historian sought to tell the story of the modern royal family, and interviewed Mr Morton, he would have been quite wrong to continue to conceal her involvement with his book. The sense of unease arises because he has chosen to unlock his secret files barely a month after her death. But to say that Diana would have wanted her part in her public relations operation kept secret, and that her wishes should be respected, is to confuse a matter of taste with one of principle.

The law of confidence, like the law of libel, should surely not be enforceable after death. People can try to preserve family secrets after they die, but they cannot rely on it, especially if they have used a journalist to reveal them - at arm's length while they were alive, as part of a campaign to influence public opinion.

Mr Morton would have been wise to resist pressure from his publishers for a few months, because people in their present mood of reverence for Diana are properly and understandably offended. He could certainly have afforded to hold off - his book has already made him rich.

There is something unseemly, too, in his selling the tapes of Diana's interviewsby-proxy which she recorded for his book. Splashing them across an American gossip-sheet is no way to show respect to the recently departed. The timing and method of publication are indecent; but publishing them at some time, in some way, would not have been wrong. On the contrary, it would be quite wrong to suppress the contents of the tapes, in the long run. Diana's estate may well be entitled to argue in law about where the proceeds from the sale of her words should go, but it should not be allowed to prevent their publication.



We see the personal effects of famous or public figures sold to the highest bidder all the time. Was it wrong to sell John Lennon's letter to his first wife, an intensely private correspondence which touches on the sensibilities of the living, namely their son Julian? The publication of personal letters and recollections of countless literary figures has caused distress to people who are still alive.

Measured against these examples, the capacity of Mr Morton's revelations to hurt those who were close to Diana is muted. We already knew that she had effectively authorised the book. Mr Morton has merely demonstrated that her approval went a lot further than being merely tacit it was utterly complicit. But the fact that she was involved in some way was made plain by the Princess herself when the book was published, and the certainty that it was indeed her true story grew as time passed.

The new element introduced by the publishers is the addition 'In Her Own Words" to the cover of the new edition. We have discovered that much of the book was effectively dictated by her, and that the proofs were corrected in her handwriting. This is of significant historical interest. It is not merely part of the soap opera of the royal family, it is part of the history of this country's rapidly-changing constitution. As keeper of a personal secret, Mr Morton should have waited for

a proper interval. But he is in possession of history, which we have a right to know. Indeed, the revelations confirm Mr

Morton as an outstanding journalist. He scores no marks for humility, claiming yesterday that his was the "scoop of the century". Like many good journalists, he can be lambasted for a certain arrogance, as well as patent insensitivity. But he deserves our admiration for having dug out a great story and told it well. No Kitty Kelley he. He did not rush to print secondhand rumour in place of primary sources. He did not traipse around people who had once shaken hands with the protagonists re-telling what "some say" and "others speculate". He got the story copper-bottomed, and we can now see quite how thoroughly it was nailed into place; we can also see why, after enduring a blizzard of establishment rubbishing (the fate of many excellent and accurate scoops) his book has stood the test of time. So much of the story was so extraordinary at the time that it was easy to disbelieve it. But it was true, and now we know just how true. So, this week's revelations mark Mr Morton's ultimate vindication as a story-getter. If only they had come next year. History could have waited a while.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Corporate killers

Sir: You report (2 October) on proposals to introduce a new offence of corporate killing.

Until a few years ago serious railway accidents were followed within a few days by an internal inquiry and within a few weeks by a public inquiry taken by an inspecting officer of railways. There were no lawvers present witnesses were invariably open and the whole process was focused on finding the cause and recommending any necessary improvements. Prosecutions

The process has changed out of all recognition. The police seek to prosecute, encouraged by the media seeking the First World War, some fifty scapegoats. Once a prosecution is under way the investigative process is delayed and complicated by witnesses seeking to defend themselves or their employers from legal retribution. Meanwhile the daily death toll on the roads exceeds that of the Southall rail

A rail crash at Watford on 8 August 1996 will not come before the courts until April 1998. Until the criminal processes are completed the public debate about causes and remedies cannot take place. Under previous procedures inquiries would have been completed and any recommendations could be in course of implementation. The defensive culture surrounding railway accidents serves as a platform for politicians and provides an income for lawyers. It does nothing to illuminate the causes or speed the implementation of remedial action.

Professor W P BRADSHAW Senior Visiting Research Fellow Centre for Socio-Legal Studies

University of Oxford

Sir: The introduction of a new offence of "corporate killing" in response to industrial disasters would remove part of the responsibility of the individual for acting safely and with excellence. Each individual would be protected by their corporate umbrella.

Instead of encouraging company directors to scrutinise the actions of each employee lest their mistakes lead to that director being held responsible, we should be encouraging greater empowerment of the individual to, for example, stop the entire production line if a quality defect is suspected. Instead of making the corporate collective responsible for the individual employee, we should be trying to increase individual accountability. SIMON BUCKINGHAM Newbury, Berkshire

Sir: They've been making a exporate killing for the last 18 years, so it seems only reasonable that they should now be charged for it. BRIAN GASCOIGNE London NW3

MI5 to tell all?

Sir: Further to my previous letter on MI5's historical files (10 September), the plot thickens. When I recently asked the Public Record Office's Reader Services Department to comment on rumours of an imminent release of MI5 files they denied all knowledge. Others have apparently been told by Reader Services that MI5 material from the First World War is to be released "in the near future" but that no further information is available.

I have gleaned more details by talking (off the record) to a PRO official in another department. I understand that MI5's in-house history covering volumes, will be released into the PRO in mid-November and that a BBC Timewatch documentary based on this is being prepared. Next year we can expect to see MI5 material from the Second World War and then from the inter-war pe-

However, my source described the whole exercise as a "sop", warning that the files to be released will reveal little of MI5's real history. Would the PRO care to tell

us, on the record, what exactly is going on? DAVID TURNER History Department Christ Church College Canterbury.

Single parents

Sir: As a long-time single parent, it is with both fear and anger that I read of recommendations by this or that "think-tank" to "get tough on single mothers" and prevent us from "slipping into a dependency mentality" (report 29 September).

Do people not understand that life for single parents is already tough and that a mother, or, indeed any parent or guardian "with care", is already doing a job? We are no more "dependent" on society than any other worker. We often cannot manage a second job.

Who are the people who make such recommendations? None of them, I believe, a mother who has had to survive for years on end on the breadline because the day nurseries have closed down, the co-parent takes little or no responsibility and the available work is so badly paid the money will not stretch to pay for the rent, the food, the clothes and the child-

Single parents are being scapegoated for failings in the market economy. Technology has put millions out of work. Factories have moved to the other side of the world where people more desperate than us will work for less. To "solve" the problem by imposing ever-increasing hardships upon a section of the population who are already struggling is nastiness in the

It is we mothers, single or





Rock legend: the 'Finger of God', the dramatic Mukorob formation in Namibia

Fathers of geology

Sir: This year represents, for scientists, an important double bicentenary - of the death of James Hutton and of the birth of Charles Lyell. These two men. cipal founders of the science of geology. At the time of their work, the formation of rocks was considered by some to be a product of great floods or other major terrestrial catastrophes, a consequence of the direct will of God. It was these two who turned wild speculation into good science.

was the first properly to recognise the influence of subterranean heat in the formation of rocks and in their unlift to form land-masses and mountain ranges. These were processes of which he saw "no vestiges of a beginning and both of them Scots, were the prin- no prospect of an end", thus appreciating the great length of geologic time.

Charles Lyell (1797-1875) perceived that, to understand how such rocks as limestones, shales and sandstones formed, it was necessary only to observe the processes in operation in the world around us - the processes James Hutton (1726-1797) of erosion and of sediment ac-fice for the issuing of stamps to

more to do with Methodism

than Marxism. Christians are

exhorted not to "hide their

lights under a bushel" but to

"shine before people, so they

will see the good things you do

and praise your Father in Heav-

Sir: The headline over Cathy

Newman's report "Channel 5

may sell digital capacity" (30

September) was misleading.

All that Channel 5 is doing is

DOROTHY BATTYE

Channel 5 deal

Sheffield

cumulation in lakes, rivers and seas. "The present," he affirmed, "is the key to the past." It was through reading Lyell that Charles Darwin gained the understanding of our world that culminated in his great work On the Origin of Species.

Hutton and Lycll, then, were among the greatest pioneers of the earth sciences. At meetings held in England and Scotland this summer, scientists and historians from many countries assembled to commemorate their achievements. Yet, when approaches were made to the British Post Ofmark the double bicentenary, the request was rejected, despite the potential for dramatic and aopealing designs that such stamps would have offered.

Instead, the British Post Office has issued a whole set of stamps commemorating Enid Blyton. So it seems Britain is prouder of such a writer than of two world-renowned scientists. Indeed, our values are changing. Professor WILLIAM A S SERJEANT Department of Geological

University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, Canada

straightforward, and the ac-

companying guides explained

the necessary procedures in

I suspect that the wide-

spread refuctance to address

this issue has more to do with

the fear of detection of past and

present tax evasion than a ques-

tion of "form phobia".

MARK BLACKMAN

THE EDITOR A quiet word to those read- for instance, science, health,

LETTER FROM

All editors dream of pages clear of advertising, but you, the reader, would be paying £1 or £1.50 for your paper if we didn't have the adverts.

We have an agreed newshas not changed since we the placing and shape of ads. and it is part of my job to resist the most disruptive ideas. Some US papers have page ads with only the tiniest slivsisted that.

companies would like to have exercise, new therapies, stress, "watermark" ads across news and environmental pollution. stories and, again, they have tween carrying commercial space and allowing other organisations to sponsor news or views is a fine one - look at what is happening on commercial TV too - and constantly under threat of being trampled. But it is essential and, I promise, heavily policed.

A more substantial question, raised tangentially by some readers, is simply: "what is news"? It might seem absurd for the editor of a newspaper to even raise this with readers, but there are good reasons for doing so. There has been what one might call "the old news agenda" for broadsheets, which was essentially politics-plus-politics and diplomacy-plus-diplomacy, with business and sports results on the back.

Even now, we are still a little old-fashioned in that way. But My Researches (I put them in capitals to make them seem more Impressive) suggest that very large numbers of people are increasingly turned off by that agenda. They are more interested in,

ers whose complaint about the the environment, culture, new paper is that I am trying technology and the higher to "pad it out" with adverts. end of consumerism. I think they are at least partly right.

Power has shifted. The power to change our lives has migrated, at least a bit, from officialdom to company directors, inventors, pressure to-advertisement ratio, which groups, doctors, marketing gurus and so on. The richer started. There is, however, a you are, the more true it is. constant quiet struggle about For an average middle-class broadsheet reader in 1948 or 1958, longevity and earningpower were clearly related to what happened at Westminafter page of supermarket ster the NHS and various industrial deals were populist, er of grey text at the top of bread-and-butter issues. them. In Britain, we have re- Nowadays, personal health questions are as much about Another example: some the latest information on diet.

Similarly, employability isbeen repulsed. The line be- n't settled by government departments but depends on company strategies, niches in markets, training (much of it

private) and consumer trends. Why, therefore, should it follow that stories about health, or the growth in supermarket banking, or air quality, are somehow considered "soft", while the latest analysis of a split in the Chinese Communist Party, or what one Tory MP told another in the lobby, is "hard", meaning serious and worthwhile. What is going on here?

I believe there is a new agenda which will partly replace the old one and which offers serious journalism the way forward. But what do you think? I've said before that I read all the letters back about these things. Quite a lot of readers' criticisms and suggestions about the new paper have been taken on board and will be adopted. But on this much bigger question, I'dvery much like to hear your

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Russia has had a political and economic revolution. Now it's time for glasnost in the bedroom - Yelena Hanga, presenter of a new Russian TV show promoting the glories of sex

We are two quite boring people. We are from working-class stock, and we just earn a living and spend it - Leo Beckett. husband of the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett There are many conversations we filmed on location that hit the cutting-room floor for fear of public outcry - Patricia Liewellyn, producer of a TV programme about the Two Fat Ladies cooking expens

A thing I noticed about the models was the horrible expression on their faces: a thin-lipped, narrow-cyed look of hostility ... that tells you that if your eyes meet a broken glass will be pushed into your face - Dr Anthony Daniels, social commentator, on visiting a fashion show

I know I have a difficult job but I wouldn't want yours - John Major's reported remark, when prime minister, to Charles Lewington, then Tory spin-doctor

I think it is a bit early to identify my successor - William Hague It's not nice kicking a man when he's down. But it's safer -Tony Banks, Sports Minister, on Peter Mandelson, who failed to be elected to Labour's National Executive.

It always makes me laugh when people ask why anyone would want to do a sitcom in America. If it runs five years, you'never have to work again - Twiggy. former model, now 48

otherwise, who are mostly re- cies of the Labour Party have sponsible for creating the next generation of adults and helping them become healthy and

civilised human beings. Such

measures are an attack upon the

very foundations of our society.

Lancaster

N M SNELL

Power of prayer Sir: Brian R Moore (letter. 2 October) objects that Tony Blair "seems to use his religion to claim the moral high ground". Mr Blair's politics have very much relevance to his

It has been said that the poli-

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DAVID ELSTEIN Chief Executive Channel 5 Broadcasting London WC2

Easy tax forms

Sir. I cannot understand why so many people are apparently having difficulties with their new self-assessment tax re-

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simple English.

Sir: Instead of worrying about resetting our computers to cope with the new millennium, perhaps we should reset our calendars to the year 1900 instead.

Then we could have a second chance at the 20th century, and perhaps make a better go of it. SEAN WOODS London SW12

Tell-tale signs of the adulterer: is it all a load of gonads?



DAVID AARONOVITCH LOVE CHEATS

Imagine for a moment that you are Mrs Kylie Kerr of Newton Abbott in the county of Devon. It is a summer's morning, and among your day's chores is that of picking up the laundry from the dry-cleaners. There are, maybe, a blouse or two, possibly a skirt, and a suit belonging to your 41year-old husband, Don. You hand your lit-

tle green ticket over the counter, and the shop assistant goes off and rattles hangers somewhere in the back. A minute passes, and she returns with the clothes - and with something else: two gold ear-rings with coloured edges, found (she tells you) in Don's trousers pocket. They are not yours.

Now it's time to change sex and become Don himself. In the warm evening of the same day, you arrive home from the music shop that you run, and immediately sense a certain domestic froideur. The dog is quiet, the cat subdued, the radio is tuned to your least favourite station. All is explained when your wife Kylie produces - from behind her back - a strange pair of ear-rings, and holds them accusingly out to you, in the palm of one hand. These, she informs you, were found in your trousers. And you are lost for words, for you have never, ever seen them before.

Let us step outside Don, and contemplate his plight from the comfort of our own bodies. He is guiltless. It is unlikely that he has had an absent-minded affair with a woman and then pocketed her ear-rings, all without noticing. But his protestations of innocence sound no different to those of the guilty man lying. Can he prove that he hasn't been having it off with a doxy?

You can see the difficulty. There are only two ways that he can empirically convince the world that he is guiltless (yes, the world, for though Kylie accepts his innocence. Newton Abbott is abuzz with the story). The first is to show that it is impossible for him to have committed the crime. The second is for the owner of the earrings to come forward and claim them. Both are tall orders. How can you, after all, prove a negative? There is nobody for you to say that you were never with, for nobody exists. And nobody may ever admit that the ear-rings were theirs - or even know that they were lost. It is everybody's

In Don's case, the nightmare has been shortlived. The dry-cleaners have admitted that they made an error, and the unfortunate husband has been absolved. But he might just as easily have fallen victim to an obstinate refusal to admit a mistake. And then what would he have done?

Don may be this week's story, but twice in the past month respected periodicals have printed articles suggesting that there are ways - short of discovery en flagrante to tell if your spouse is betraying the marital bed. Or, indeed, is likely to.

The first, which appeared in a number of august journals - including the Daily Mail - detailed the work of Dr David Buss, an American sociologist who interviewed 107 couples together and separately. He correlated their answers with the incidence of adultery, and concluded that there was a personality profile of the adulterer. Based on this profile (it was claimed), one should be able to discern from other behaviour whether one's partner was likely to stray.

In fact, one might be able to tell simply from going out to dinner. For signs would include arriving late, looking in the ball mirror, interrupting others, going to the loo and leaving the door open, and - most revealing of all - driving past squashed animals and laughing callously.

Clearly, such information is doubleedged. Should another man find himself in Don's position, he might be saved from suspicion because he exhibited none of these tendencies. Were he punctual, taciturn, discreet and - when driving - sentimental, he would clearly fail to meet the personality profile.

So far, so good. But suppose that you were entirely innocent of wrongdoing, yet one dark night - giggled at a joke that you'd heard some hours before, just as you passed a flattened badger? Your wife or husband (an avid Mail reader) slams on the brakes, screeches to a halt, turns to you and snarls, "Who is it? I know you're having an affair!" Very pasty. But not, I'm afraid, as bad as it can get.

This newspaper itself revealed last month that - I quote - "it is a matter of scientific fact that promiscuous men have larger testicles". This is (let me add hastily) a cause, not an effect. Anyway, 80 Manchester University students - my own alma mater - allowed a zoologist, Dr Robin Baker, to measure the volume of their gonads, using a pair of calipers (warm, I hope; in my day student grants were large enough to spare us the necessity of submitting ourselves to such examinations).

Baker's largest gonad was 52 cubic cen timetres, the smallest just 8 - and the average 24. Then he set testicle size against sexual behaviour and discovered a clear correlation: the chaps with bigger balls were more likely to use them.

It isn't clear why. I suppose it may be because larger genitals are more obtrusive, and thus assert themselves over the personality of the owner. Or perhaps the the greater amount of sperm-making activity somehow impels the testicle-owner into primeval, instinctual sperm-losing frenzies. Whatever. My point in all this is not to explain the theory, but to share a concern. It is, after all, possible for a man to shun drycleaners and thus never find himself baving to explain errant ear-rings. He can also avoid mirrors, never interrupt party guests, and force himself to weep over squashed hedgehogs. But what, oh gentle reader, is a chap to do if his testicles are too big?



Be a sport: Peter Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs, puts his all into a charity project with south London schoolchildren this week

A sporting chance for volunteers

If you're at a loose end this weekend there is plenty of work to do. The problem is, you won't get paid for it. Week by week, 23 million Britons turn out to do voluntary work or raise funds for charities, to help at youth clubs and old people's homes, to sit on public bodies, to comfort the sick and dying. That's more people than are in paid employment; and though, for many, it is rewarding in itself, the work offers little by way of recompense.

This is Giving Britain at its best. However, the announcement that the chairman of the Arts Council will stand down next year to spend more time with his business partners has raised a crucial question: should the boss of an outfit that. shells out some half a billion pounds of public money each year be paid to do the job properly?

Lord Gowne is the epitome

of all that is good about public service in Britain: urbane. intelligent, cultivated, community minded and decent. As a recent recruit to the Arts Council, I can vouch for the huge amount of time that he and its other members spend on the arts business. Yet he, like many others in his position, does the job without pay, and seemingly without strain; despite his Irish peerage, he almost defines the 19th-century English expression "languid". When first coined, this was not meant at the time to suggest laziness or indolence, but that a person was talented enough to perform well without apparent effort. The same might have been said about David Gower's batting or Muhammad Ali's boxing.

Yet even Gowrie, for all his talents, apparently has to make a living. For most of the 23 million who give their time for free, there is a cost. It may be in time spent away from work or family; it almost certainly involves taking care of money donated directly by the public or the Treasury. And here is the difference to the old days of oldstyle philanthropy. There is big money involved here.

Charities represent some 3 per cent of our GDP; they employ some 450,000 people, fully 2 per cent of the national workforce. They are part of our national fabric, and, along with the mushrooming growth of quangos, have provided an outlet for the British mania for dogooding of all kinds. This is not new, it stretches back through the centuries. But in the past it has been possible to characterise this kind of voluntary activity as faintly ridiculous and irrelevant - even a bit

In Bleak House, Dickens' Mrs Jellyby, a "rapacious benevolent", could have landed you picking coffee beans on the banks of the Niger at Borrioboola-Gha if you weren't careful. But as well as fear, such people inspire cynicism. Mrs Jellyby was "a lady of remarkable strength of character who devotes herself entirely to the public. She has devoted herself to an extensive variety of public subjects at various times and is at present devoted to the subject of Africa - until something else attracts her ..."

However, the massive growth of the so-called "third sector" - the others being the public and private sector - has **TREVOR**

PHILLIPS THE 'THIRD SECTOR'

made all such sneering seem irrelevant. Vast areas of public expenditure are in the hands of gifted (and not-so-gifted) amateurs. The appointments to NHS Trusts are a case in point. The dispensation of billions of nounds of taxnavers' cash, the employment of hundreds of thousands of people and the health of the nation rest in the hands of a few hundred non-professionals. Even more spectacularly, the tens of billions raised by the Lottery will, in theory, be in the hands of the voluntary bodies that run the Sports Council, Arts Council and so forth; by my reckoning over the next three or four years each quango member will give away an average of nearly £100m.

Do we really want to give this kind of power to Mrs Jellyby? Actually, yes; the great virtue of this way of working is that it disperses power away from the iron grip of national government, and potentially weakens the baleful influence of party politics on these great areas of policy. And

not all those who currently give their time are Mrs Jellybys many that I've worked with are talented individuals with a conscience and time to spare. Yet, typically, those who run quangos and big charities are male, white, and elderly. Where they are not, it is because they are independently wealthy, or women with husbands able to free them from the need to work.

Being the chairman of a quango, The London Arts Board, currently trying to find suitable new members, I can say how hard it is to find people who don't just feel like "more of the same". Few of us in the midst of careers have the opportunity to serve, however much we would like to; still fewer who are not well-off can even consider giving the time. Even those of us with decent jobs can expect a raised eyebrow from hard-pressed colleagues when We leave early to attend a meeting that is nothing to with the business. The range of public services provided by the third sector is now too great either to privatise or nationalise; so how do we make it work?

Some companies, recognising that the experience of helping to run a voluntary organisation adds to the ability of their employees take a relaxed attitude to time spent in such activities; a few even. encourage it. But sooner or later someone is going to make a hard choice.

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To do the job properly, the value of such activity will have? to be recognised by the Chan-1 cellor. He could consider taxbreaks for companies which give their employees time off. for voluntary activity. He could is find ways of providing career:i breaks to run charities or arts. organisations possible. He.: could even think about offering extra incentives for the: long-term unemployed to take " up opportunities in the voluntary sector.

Of course, we will end up . paying people for serving onpublic bodies, but this is the " only sensible course of action if we want to ensure that our quangos are in any way repre--sentative. A little farther down... think seriously about paying: reasonable sums to local councillors responsible for bigger. organisations than many FTSE 100 chairmen. Only then will we! get the effective management 1 of public resources we want :: And, yes, I might one day see: a bob or two myself. But who: knows, if there is more than peanuts on offer, you might get : something better than monkeys.

How ministers are mastering Sir Humphrey



LABOUR AND WHITEHALL

Cabinet ministers in Brighton for this week's Labour Party conference have revealed ways in which they are snapping the bonds that civil servants have tried to impose on them.

One minister told The Independent that he had asked for a meeting to be arranged to take a particular decision, at which he wanted a couple of other ministers, expecting that they would each have one or two officials in attendance. Instead, he arrived at the meeting to be confronted by between 30 and 35 officials. "It was like a Labour conference fringe meeting," he said scornfully. A further, smaller meeting was

called and a decision was quickly reached.

The same man noted that not all Cabinet colleagues were so decisive. "Some review, some decide," he said in a contemptuous reference to the way in which some ministers handled their arrival in departments by launching reviews rather than getting on with the

Other ministers have been marked down as people who stick rigidly to their departmental briefs, the notes written by civil servants that are supposed to guide them through inter-departmental negotiations in Cabinet committee. The crib-sheets tell ministers that they must not disclose their hand to colleagues, particularly the Treasury.

But Labour ministers have been cutting through the calture of Whitehall secrecy by passing on their departmental notes to their colleagues, enabling more informed decisions to be made - though not always in their own narrow

departmental interest. One reason for this goverument culture-change is that ministers have become accustomed in Opposition to a very different way of working. They are operating an alternative Labour network, a tight-knit

circle of friends who trust each other, who work behind the backs of hidebound officials and brief-bound colleagues.

Critics see overtones of Margaret Thatcher's "one of us" culture being repeated, and a politicisation of the Civil Service being pursued, as similar networks of "New Whitehall" officials are identified across departments, with Labour ministers recruiting co-operative civil servants to

Peter Hennessy, professor of history at London University

suborned by 18 years of Conservative government; they are concerned about the efficiency and effectiveness of the machine. They argue that, Labour having been elected by a landslide, officials are there to help carry out the party's programme. If they get in the way,

purged. That process has already started, with the departure of a number of senior figures from some departments. Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is also

they will be pushed aside or

'A tight-knit circle of friends are working behind the backs of officials'

and an expert in cabinet government, says that what is happening could amount to a Whitehall revolution by stealth". But he adds: "One has to remember, at the risk of sounding like a Permanent Secretary, that the Civil Service has this great power to sit it out and then to return, like an automatic pilot, to a slightly changed version of the status

Ministers do not complain that their officials have been

demanding a "raised game" from the Government Information Service, the Civil Service press officers.

A number of ministers describe the weekly meetings of Cabinet as perfunctory and mundane. The real business of government is being carried out in key cabinet committees where men such as Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, push through fast-track decisions

The Civil Service machine

might normally offer the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer one formal diary meeting a week. In practice, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, who have lived check by jowl for many years, frequently hold meetings in the early morning and late evening without officials present - which means no minutes can be taken and the Civil Service is bypassed.

Last week, there were no civil servants present when Jack Cunningham, Minister for Agriculture, and Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, agreed that they should ask the Prime Minister to set up a judicial inquiry to track down those to blame for the introduction of BSE into cattle and the human food chain.

Other ministers, such as John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, have been known openly to repudiate the advice given to them by their most senior officials. Mr Prescott was told that he must not visit the scene of the recent Southall rail crash. He went.

But that does not mean that civil servants are being regarded with general disdain. When Gordon Brown arrived in the Treasury on 2 May he pulled out of his pocket a three-page document and handed it to Sir Terence Burns, his Permanent Secretary, giving him Labour's plans for Bank of England independence on interest rates. It took a team of leading officials just days - in some cases without sleep - to implement the rush plan, with all the secrecy that was required.

In his speech to the Labour conference on Tuesday, Tony Blair gently chided officials with an indirect warning about their behaviour. "They're not in the habit of calling anything a good idea," he told delegates, which given the last 18 years is hardly surprising.

"When they describe a proposal as 'ambitious', or, even worse, 'interesting', what they really mean is they think it was a stupid idea, dreamt up at the last minute for the manifesto.

"When they describe it as 'challenging', they mean there's not a hope in hell of making it work. And when they say of a policy that 'it really is quite a brave proposal, Prime Minister', it means they've got the doctor outside waiting to sign the certificates ...

It was said afterwards that Mr Blair had been short of a ioke or two for his speech. But the writing was also being scrawled on the wall for the officials back in Whitehall: co-operate or go.



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Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk

born Pustomyty, Austro-Hungarian Empire 12 February 1907; ordained priest 1931; consecrated 1964 Bishop of Peremysl; Archbishop of Lviv locum tenens 1969-91; died Lviv, Ukraine 29 September 1997.

Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk of Lviv was for 22 years the head of the banned Ukrainian Catholic Church in its home territory of western Ukraine, During the church's persecution his life consisted of, as he later described it, "surveillance, house searches and interrogations on the part of the state and, on my side, attempts to evade surveillance so as at least to be able to carry out ordinations".

Sterniuk was born in 1907 in the village of Pustomyty near Lviv. then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. War soon engulfed the area and Russian troops of the Tsarist army invaded. Then fighting broke out between Ukrainians and Poles and he was taken with his family to safety in Lviv. Sterniuk decided to follow his father into the priesthood. He was sent by the Redemptorist Order to Belgium to complete his schooling, in 1927 joining their novitiate in St Trond. He studied theology in Louvain and was ordained priest in Belgium in 1931.

Sterniuk returned to westem Ukraine and was sent to Volhynia to do missionary work. These were difficult years for Eastern-rite Catholics under Polish rule. The government and Roman Catholic Church were keen to assimilate them into the Polish community and church. The missionary work ran into problems when it was put under Polish church control.

In 1939 the Red Army invaded Ivano-Frankivsk, where Sterniuk was living. But before the Soviets could establish themselves the Nazis arrived. They immediately started rounding up and murdering the local Jewish population. Many Jews came to ask Sterniuk for a certificate of baptism, which he gave with no questions. The SS, suspicious about the number he had issued, twice came to arrest him. He had to flee the area, taking refuge in Lviv, where the great prestige of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky, the powerful inter-war leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, somewhat restrained the Germans' attacks.

But the Soviets soon returned, and Stalin moved to extinguish the Ukrainian Catholic Church. A forced "synod" in Lviv in 1946, held after the arrest of many leading figures in the church, voted to "re-unite" with the Russian Orthodox Church. Sterniuk, who opposed the forced merger, was arrested in June 1947 for illegally carrying on with his priestly work. He was sentenced to five years in labour camp, which he served in the Arkhangelsk region.

On release Sterniuk re-

various jobs before qualifying as a medical assistant in 1959. In July 1964 he was secretly consecrated as bishop of Peremysi (a diocese which crossed the new Polish/Ukrainian border) by Archbishop Vasyl Velychkovsky. This was the time when secret consecrations, without the prior knowledge or approval of the Vatican, were required to continue the apostolic succession of the church.

Sterniuk was to be Velychkovsky's successor in case of his arrest - which indeed happened in January 1969. Although he had been consecrated bishop of Peremysl, Velychkovsky told him he had jurisdiction over the whole of the Galician Metropolia, based on Lviv. His position as leading Galician bishop was confirmed when Sterniuk heard in February 1972 by a roundabout route that the Vatican had confirmed him as locum tenens of the Archdiocese of Lviv.

By this time Sterniuk was retired, so he had time to devote to his secret episcopal duties. Although the Soviet authorities knew well be was a bishop, Sterniuk appeared in public only as a priest. It was in private at priestly ordinations and the consecration of bishops - often only in the company of the required two witnesses - that he wore episcopal garments.

Sterniuk believed his main duty during those years was to protect the church's structure and to lead the clergy. He took a back seat to the more activist clergy who ministered directly



to the faithful and who led the increasingly vocal campaigns for the church's relegalisation. It was only with the arrival

of glasnost in the late 1980s that realistic hopes were raised that the Soviet authorities would at last admit that the 1946 "synod" was bogus and the church could be relegalised. As the Russian Orthodox Church gathered its forces to resist this move, Archbishop Sterniuk's status as leading hierarch in Ukraine came to be publicly admitted. This was confirmed in September 1987, when the Ukrainian Catholic synod in Rome (made up only of bishons from the emigration) declared that there were 10 bishops in Ukraine, headed by Archbishop Sterniuk, Many visitors from inside Ukraine and abroad were already making the trek to the dingy one-room

turned to Lviv. He worked at flat in Lviv where he had lived since 1957.

The momentum for relegalisation was kept up in 1988 and 1989, with hunger strikes in Moscow and demonstrations. On 15 August 1989 all the church's 10 bishops crowded into Sterniuk's flat for their first ever meeting, many not even knowing the identity of all the other bishops. Events moved fast and, to coincide with the historic first meeting of Pope John Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev in the Vatican on 1 December 1989, it was announced that the ban on the church had been lifted.

The Novosti news agency interviewed Sterniuk on what he described as "this joyful day". It was on 7 January 1990 (Christmas Day in the Eastern Church) that Archbishop Sterniuk first appeared in public as a bishop, when he celebrated a triumphal Christmas liturgy in Lviv.

On 16 January 1991 the Vatican confirmed all the 10 secret bishops in office - but Sterniuk was pointedly described as "Archbishop", not "Metropolitan" as he had customarily been described in Ukraine. The division between the Church in the West, headed directly by Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky from Rome, and the Church on its home territory of western Ukraine was one that needed delicate handling.

Sterniuk's moral authority in western Ukraine was great, and Cardinal Lubachivsky, especially on his return to Lviv on 30 March 1991 after more than 50 years' exile from Ukraine, had to tread carefully to assert his leadership. Sterniuk had already been rebuked by the church for accepting into communion with Rome Bishop Vikenty of the True Orthodox Church, a breakaway group from the Russian Orthodox Church which had existed in the catacombs.

Surviving long enough to see the church's relegalisation, it was hard for Sterniuk to accept that he was then only second in command to Cardinal Lubachivsky, who had not shared the sufferings of the church directly. Already 82 at the time of relegalisation, Sterniuk could leave the many problems of the church - the shortage of priests and facilities, disputes with the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches - to the younger generation, which by now was

coming to the fore. Coming from the older generation, who had studied in Western Europe between the wars, Sterniuk had a wider view of the world than those who had grown up under Soviet rule. He once apologised to a Western visitor that so few of the younger clergy could converse in Latin. His hospitality, keen intellect and sense of humour endeared him to visitors. but it was his steadfast dedication to his office and his sufferings that gave him a place of honour in western Ukraine.

of the London Sinfonietta and

in the early 1970s became Principal Cellist. Over the years he appeared as a soluist with most of the leading British orchestras and played in a number of chamber music ensembles, including the Brindisi String Ouartet.

Christopher van Kampen

Kampen was a gifted and verwith and performed under many celebrated composers insatile soloist and chamber music player who was equally at cluding Luciano Berio, Hans home with the music of Haydn Werner Henze and Sir Michael and Mozart as that of the most Tippett. In 1988 he gave the first avant-garde composers of the performance of Hans Abraham's Lied in Fall, a work writpresent time. Van Kampen read Mathten especially for him, and in ematics at King's College, Cam-1990 gave the UK premiere of H.K. Gruber's Cello Conceno. bridge, and studied the cello with Douglas Cameron at the which he also played in the 1991 Royal Academy of Music in Proms. He was closely associ-London, where in his first year ated with John Tavener's The Protecting Veil for cello and orchestra, which he played many times in the UK and abroad, in-

he became a finalist in the BBC Cello Competition. In 1967 he became the cellist of the Nash Ensemble, with whom cluding the 1992 Aldeburgh Festival with the London Sinhe continued to perform worldwide right up to his death. In fonietta. He performed Ben-1969, at the age of 24, he was jamin Britten's complete works for the solo cello at the Wigappointed Principal Cellist of the Royal Philharmonic Ormore Hall and once played both Shostakovich's cello concertos chestra, a position he held for at the same concert at St John's three years. In 1968 van Kampen had Smith Square.

Van Kampen: versatile

Christopher van Kampen,

married Marcia Crayford

(one son, one daughter;

marriage dissolved); died

Pinner 30 September 1997.

The cellist Christopher van

Middlesex 4 September 1945;

cellist: born Pinner,

His numerous solo recordplayed in the inaugural concert ings included music from Jan-

acek, Hindemith and Debussy to Schubert, and he also made many recordings with the Nash Ensemble where again the music ranged from Debussy and Ravel to Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak.

Photograph: London Sinfonietta / Marcus Tate

His fellow musicians ap-He specialised in contem-Gareth Hulse, oboist of the Nash Ensemble, told me: "He was always very excited when he discovered a new young cello talent and would encourage and assist wherever it was possible. He was absolutely devoid of any professional jealousy and working with him was sheer pleasure."

The concert given by the Nash Ensemble on 5 October as part of the South Bank's Raising Sparks Festival will be dedicated to his memory. On 13 October, with the viola player Paul Silverthorne and the London Sinfonietta under Martyn Brabbins, he was due to give the world premiere of Alexander Raskatov's double concerto Miserere in memoriam Oleg Kugan, as part of the Dimensions Festival at the South Bank; this concert will now also be dedicated to his memory.

Margaret Campbell

Dorothy Kingsley

Dorothy Kingsley, screenwriter: born New York 14 October 1989; twice married (three sons, three daughters); died Carmei, California 26 September

"I never think of myself as a real writer," said Dorothy Kingsley, looking back on a long career. "I only wrote because I needed the money." The money was steady, and came principally from MGM, who employed this prolific, witty writer for 16 busy years on such musicals as Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Kiss Me. Kate, and no less than seven vehicles for the swimming star Esther Williams. Born in New York to an ac-

tress mother and a journalist father, Kingsley moved with her mother to Detroit after her parents divorced. After her own marriage was dissolved in the late 1930s, she took her three sons to Los Angeles, determined to support them by becoming a gag writer. She wrote radio comedy for Bob Hope and, later, for the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, who started her in screenwriting when he and his dummy Charlie McCarthy appeared in RKO's Look Who's Laughing (1941). This lowbudget second feature was a surprise smash hit, and Kingsiey also contributed material to its successful sequel, Here We Go, Again (1942).

She then started writing original screen stories and submitting them to the studios. MGM's legendary producer Arthur Freed was impressed with her work and had her placed under contract - her first assignment, to write additional dialogue for the Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland musical Girl Crazy (1943). She was also asked to bring some order to the chaotic screenplay of Bathing Beauty (1944), a Red Skelton-Esther Williams musical, on which six other writers had already laboured. The result of ber endeavours was a top-grossing film that made Williams one

of the studio's biggest stars. Her fourth script for the "Chlorine Queen" was Neptune's Daughter (1949). Frank pear to have nothing but ad- Loesser, who was writing the composed a surefire duet, but didn't know what to do with it. After hearing the song, she wrote a new scene, in which Williams and Ricardo Montalban could sing it. The number, "Baby, It's Cold Outside", won the 1949 Best Song Oscar.

> After writing the screen version of Sam and Bella Spewack



Kingsley: prolific

and Cole Porter's Kiss Me, Kate (1953), Kingsley was asked to refine Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's script for Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954). Deciding that Adam Pontipee (Howard Keel) had too much to do and his wife Milly (Jane Powell) too little, she wrote a scene in which Milly taught Adam's brothers how to woo a female. She then got Johnny Mercer and Gene de Paul to write "Goin' Co'tin' ", one of the film's most winning song-and-dance numbers.

Briti

Reviewing the film version of Rodgers and Hart's musical Pal Joey (1957), Time magazine stated, "Almost everything that could be done wrong the moviemakers have done wrong in this production, and yet somehow the picture comes out remarkably right." Columbia Pictures had indeed cut out most of the Broadway show's songs while bowdlerising the remaining ones, and Kingsley's script had changed the lecherous Vera Simpson (Rita Hayworth) from an adulterous wife to a widow, disinfected John O'Hara's original dialogue, and allowed the reptilian Joey Evans to give up his womanising ways by the final scene. Yet, the film was still far sexier and sharper than most screen musicals, studded with classic Rodgers and Hart songs from other sources, and blessed with the perfect Joey in Frank Sinatra. So pleased was Ol' Blue Eyes with Kingsley's contribution to Pal Joey that he later accepted, sight unseen, the screen version of Cole Porter's Can-Can (1960), which she co-

In 1967 Kingsley and Helen Deutsch co-wrote the profitable film version of Jacqueline Susann's Valley of the Dolls. Clearly, the experience gave Kingsley a taste for soap opera; in 1969 she created and wrote Bracken's World, an hour-long television series set in the mythical Century Studios. Variety called it "the classiest soap yet. The setting is the entire 20th Century-Fox lot." Perhaps Bracken's World was too classy for the general public; it lasted only two seasons. After its cancellation, Dorothy Kingsley retired from writing and conties, her children and her second marriage, to William Durney, owner of a seafood company and a winery.

For 27 years her name was absent from film credits, until 1994, when the Disney corporation remade Angels in the Outfield, her 1951 comedy-fantasy about an eight-year-old orphan girl (Donna Corcoran) whose prayers turn a losing baseball team into a world-beating one. Despite some abusive reviews, the remake was a smash hit -

Kingsley's last. When Pat McGilligan interviewed her eight years ago for Backstory 2, his book on screenwriters, he asked which of her films she preferred. After singling out Pal Joey and Angels in the Outfield, she said, "The others, I always think, 'Gee, why didn't we do this?' or 'it should have been better ...'

- Dick Vosburgh

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

McGWIRE: M.G.A. (Molly), widow of G.W.F. (Dick) MccGwire, of Hayes, Swanage, peacefully on 3 October, aged 97. Funeral, 3.30pm, at St Mary's on Tuesday 7 October.

SCHULLING: Richard Schwyn Francis, CBE MD DSc FRCR, on 30 September 1997, aged 86. Peacefully at home. Much-loved husband of Heather, wonderful father, fatherin-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service, 9 October, 2.30pm, St Peter's Caurch, De Beruvoir Road, London NI. Family flowers only, enquiries to Miller's, 0171-226 3886. Donations in his memory to Horder Centre for Arthritis. Crowborough TN6 1XP, or St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, London E9.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazzette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 46.50 a fine (VAT extra). OTHER Gazzette amountcarrents; must be submitted in writing and are charged. mitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, Patron, Rayal Lymington Yacin Club, Inday attends the Potter Step Rice. If Royal Lymington Yacin Chie, Lymington, Hampelite, Princess Marquett, Pro-dent attends a Ball at Satter-Lyman Hall. Lowestell, Datificit, in aid of the Nather-

Changing of the Guard TODAY The Household Crosby Mounted Resignation the Queen's Life County at Horse Co. Harris to Buttaken Scoth Limits's mount, the Queen's Mounted States and Co.

TODAY: Professor Richard Batchelor, immunologist, 66; Lord Blaker, former government minister. 75; Sir Neville Bowman-Shaw, chairman, Boss Trucks Ltd, 67: Miss Jackie Collins, novelist, 60; Sir Terence Couran, chairman, The Couran Shop, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, 86; Mr Basil D'Oliveira, cricketer, 66; Dr F. Dudley Hart, rheumatologist. 88; Mr Charlton Heston, actor, 73; Sir John Hogg, former deputy chairman, Williams and Glyn's Bank, 85; Mr Frank Keating. ournalist, 60; Mr John McFall MP, a Lord Commissioner, 53: Mr Tony Meo, snooker champion, 38; Si Hoctor Monro, former MP, 75; Dr Gareth Owen, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 74; Mr Giles Radice MP, 61; Miss Anneka Rice, television presenter, 39; Mr John Rutherford, rugby player, 42: Miss Susan Sarandon, actness, 51: The Right Rev Dr Richard Say, former Bishop of Rochester, 83; Mr Marcus Setchell, Surgeonon Marcus Setchell, Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen, 54; Sir Gervase Sheklon, former High Cour judge, 84; Miss Ann Widdecombe MP, 50.

TOMORROW: Sir Raymond Appleyard, biologist, 75; Mr Robin Bailey, actor, 78; Mr John Bridgeman, Director-General of Pair Trading, 53; Mr Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm, chief of the Chestolm, Chief and The Mr. chief of the Clan Chisholm, 77: Mr Ray Clemence, footballer, 49; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 56; The Most Rev Joseph Cunnane, former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, 84; Miss Laura Davies, golfer, 34; Sir John Dent, former Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 74; Mr Bob Geldof, musician, 43; The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, 61: Mr Vaclav Havel, President

of the Czech Republic, 61: Lord Holderness, former government minister, 77; Miss Glynis Johns, ac-tress, 74; Mr Robert Kee, author and broadcaster, 78; Miss Barbara Kelly, actress and broadcaster, 73; Mr Herbert Kretzmer, journalist and lyricist. 72; Mrs Kate Losinka, former trade union leader, 73: Mr David Mellor, silversmith and designer. 67: Sir Edward Peck, former British ambassador to Nato, 82; Sir Douglas Ranger, otolaryngologist, 81; Mr Adrian Sindall, ambassador to Syr-ia, 60; Sir Richard Thompson Bt, former MP and director of British Museum Publications, 85.

TODAY: Births: Richard Cromwell. Lord Protector, 162ti; Alfred Damor Runyon, writer and journalist, 1884; Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, sculptor 1891. Deaths: St Teresa of Avila Carmelite nun, 1582; Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, painter. 1669; Janis Joplin, rock singer, 1970. On this day: Peterborough Cathedral was consecrated, 1238; the first public escalator was opened at Earl's Court underground station, 1911. Today is the Feast Day of St Ammon, St Francis of Assisi and St Petronius of Bologna.

TOMORROW: Births: Denis Diderot, scholar and encyclopaedist. 1713; Donald Pleasence, actor, 1919. Deaths: Jacques Offenbach (Jakob Levy Eberst), composer, 1880; William Heinemann, publisher and playwright, 1920; Leonard Rossiter, actor, 1984. On this day: tea rationing ended in Britain, 1952. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Apollinaris of Valence, St Flora of Beautieu, St Galla, St Magenuli or Meinuli and St

FAITH & REASON

The geometry of innocent flesh on the bone

Bob Dylan's songs to God are among the finest Christian hymns ever written. Rooted in an apocalyptic Calvinism Dylan sings like a man with the Last Things right before his eyes, writes Andrew Brown.

When Bob Dylan sang for the Pope a week ago today, it did not seem a meeting of equals: one of the two men can draw huge crowds of young people wherever he goes and still releases hestselling albums of dense poetry; the other is widely seen as the clapped-out old relic of an outmoded belief system even though he is only 56 and has just released a very good record himself.

But I still like to believe that Dylan will be remembered as long as the Pope, at least by those who care about religious poetry. For the songs he wrote in his Christian period in the early Eighties seem to me as fine as any hymns I know. Of course they're not George Herbert or even John Bunyan. They derive a great part of their power from the music - but that is not a crime in hymnody; and they are infinitely better than happy-clappy drivel like "Shine, Vineyard Fellowship has specialised in Jesus, Shine", named in a moment of regrettable spontaneity by George Carey as one of his favourite hymns.

Unless you visit the churches where they are perpetrated, it is difficult to grasp just how bad the "worship song" can be. Not even Dylan at his most bathetic can match such things as "Lord, you put a tongue in my mouth" or "Lord, I can feel you changing me" the nappy song. And Dylan's songs to God are not his most bathetic. For one thing, they are not mushy. Whether as a Jew or a Christian, he has always been apocalyptically interested: one of the songs he performed for the Pope was "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall", written for the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, when it seemed the world might be blown up nuclear: it is a descent into the valley of the shadow of death, all right, but

the route taken is nowhere specified. As a Christian, however, he was a Calvinist. He studied under John Wimber, once the drummer in the Righteous Brothers, who founded one of the most successful fundamentalist church

miracles and apocalyptic excitements. First it was healings, then prophecies, and most recently the Toronto Blessing; yet all these have been anchored

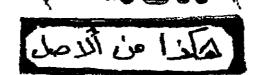
in a rigorous Calvinism. There are so many things wrong with a system that holds that a just God will condemn millions to eternal, unimaginable suffering, that it is easy to overlook the merits of Calvinism, and chief this last known for obvious reasons as among these is beauty. It is a beautiful system of thought in the way that engincering, chess, or even software can be beautiful: all the vast forces within it are perfectly arranged and balanced. It brings to life Dylan's phrase about the geometry of innocent flesh on the bone". God's justice and his mercy between them account for all the varieties of human experience; and if most of at any moment. But its imagery is not these varieties turn out to be unpleasant, that conforms the close fit of the theory to experience. Everything exists within a perfect finished plan.

Dylan has always thrown fragments of religious texts into his songs, but they usually come from the Bible. "Perfect finished plan", which comes in the chorus of "Every Grain of Sand" is a rare groupings of the last 30 years. Wimber's exception: a piece of secondary dogma,

which he manages, however, to integrate completely into the argument and passion of the song. It is only crabbed old religious freaks who notice it in the hoarse torrent of conviction with which he sings. For the real triumph of Dylan as a religious singer is the way that he manages to inject fierce personal anguish into the cold certainties of Calvinism. Dylan can sing like a man with the

Last Things right before his eyes. Some form of this is traditional among rock stars: many have sung as if the last overdose were in front of them. But just as Dylan sings about deeper hells than that, he also sings wonderfully of joy. I don't think anything written this century can beat the leaping, bounding joy of "You Shall Be Changed" with its chorus in which the dead arise - and burst out of their clothes. Bursting is the verb to make the resurrection of the body mean something. And while other journalists may pacify their children on long car journeys with tapes of Pope John Paul reciting the resary. I will continue to inflame mine with great blasts of "Slow Train

'Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely



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British Land leads blue chips in another headlong charge

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

group created by John Ritblat. led blue chins on another headlong charge as stories swirled it could be the next to get involved in corporate action.

One persistent suggestion is a bid for MEPC, the nation's third largest property group which looks vulnerable.

Earlier this year MEPC had merger talks with smaller rival Hammerson; then it dallied with Greycoat before nearly getting together with Burford. In between, it is thought to have had more than a passing acquaintance with BritLand.

MEPC is currently indulging in a defensive restructuring. It is retreating from foreign parts, intending to hand to shareholders £300m

British Land, the property with MEPC's performance and some have been agitating for a deal.

But it seems a reluctance to force MEPC into a merger it did not want killed off the proposed Hammerson deal; the Burford alliance was seen as a way of strengthening MEPC's management; it stumbled when agreement on management roles in the enlarged group could not be reached.

All the manoeuvring has proclaimed the message that MEPC is in play. Some suspect Mr Ritblat has now decided to

BritLand was at one time 34.5p higher at a 699.5p peak; the shares closed at 694p, a 29p gain. MEPC jumped 17p to 451p; its £247m bid for the rather unglamorous PSIT property group has been

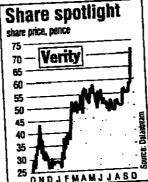
Footsie had another high octane session, ending 34.7 points higher at 5,330.8, another peak. At one time it appeared to have run out of steam but when New York opened with a rush, inspired by subdued employment figures, the

bulls regained the ascendancy. Supporting shares joined in. The FTSE 250 MidCap index jumped 22.6 to a 4,883.9 peak and the FTSE SmallCap index added 11.1 to 2,360.8.

Redland, the building materials group which looked like being demolished by worse than expected interim figures, continued to recover. It is claimed chairman Rupert Agnew regards the group as vulnerable to a predatory strike. A review is under way which could lead to job losses. The shares rallied 21.5p to 254p;

BT remained in demand, up 10p to 469.5p in another round of heavy trading. Barclays' planned BZW deal left the shares 49.5p down at

British Blotech had the dubious distinction of becoming another drug group to disappoint, falling 15.5p to 134p atter abandoning an arthritis treatment. Glaxo Wellcome



Shield Diagnostic, still basking in the Sutherlands investment meeting, rose a further 22.5p to 752.5p.

price should be 220p. GKN, weighed down by worries it may be tempted to mount a counter bid for T&N, improved 46.5p to 1,399.5p with HSBC maintaining the shares should be 1,540p.

Takeover favourite Britton, a packaging group, rose 3p to 78.5p after signalling a share

buy-back. Verity jumped 15p to a 72.75p record in busy trading. It has clinched seven more licensing deals, making 11 this year, for its NXT wafer thin loudspeaker technology. Negotiations involving another 20 links are going on. In the year to June the company made a

put on 26.5p to 1,397.5p and £7.3m loss. Last year Verity Tunstall, an electronic

group, was lifted 16p to 107p on a proposed management buyout. Network Technology held UBS saying sell. It believes the at 159p. The company, develhas suffered contract delays and Merrill Lynch has cut its profits forecast but suggests the shares could reach 250p in the next year. It is looking for

£4.5m this year and £6.7m next. Latchways, which develops safety equipment for builders, made a firm debut. Placed at 155p the shares closed at 174.5p.

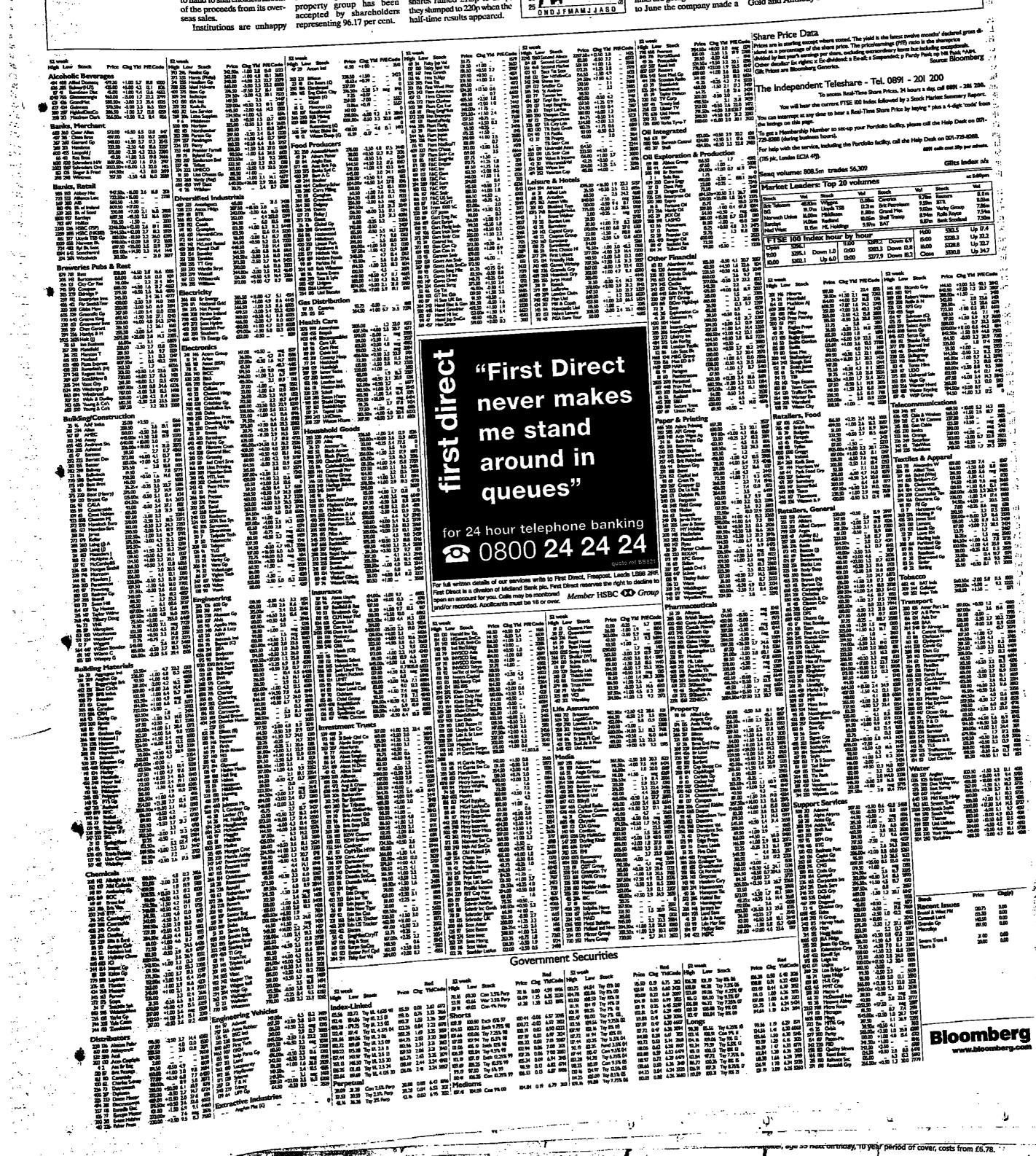
London & Edinburgh Publishing firmed to 5.5p. New chairman John Webber and his deputy David Ellingham have each picked up 4.92 per cent of the capital at 2.55p. The shares appear to have come from founders Robert Gold and Anthony Hussain.

TAKING STOCK

Motion Media jumped 25p to 205p on the fringe Ofex market. Its intends to launch its video telephone at a London exhibition next week. There are suggestions the MM development is already creating considerable excitement. Last month MM raised £2.5m in a placing and open offer with institutional demand prompting the company to increase the cash raising from £2m.

Langdons Foods, the struggling tea and coffee group raising £860,000 through a one-for-one rights issue, is thought to be attracting tentative predatory interest. It has suffered largely due to its Importers coffee shop subsidiary which it now wants to sell. Since it was hived off from Plantation & General two years ago Langdons has made two cash calls. The shares bamp

22 next on thosy, TO year period of cover, costs from £6.78.



24/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

BZW businesses for sale as Barclays gives up global ambitions

Barclays abandoned its ambition to be a global player in investment banking yesterday, putting BZW's equities and corporate finance businesses up for sale. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the bank's change of heart.

BZW swapped one kind of uncertainty for another yesterday after Barclays, its parent, said it was inviting offers for a large part of the investment bank. Staff, who had learned to live with persistent rumours they were on the block, are now worrying about the identity of their new owner.

Bill Harrison, BZW's chief executive for little more than a year, resigned yesterday after the integrated investment bank he was expensively drafted in to run was dismembered.

Shares in Barclays tumbled after its chief executive Martin Taylor claimed he had not yet found a buyer for BZW, prompting fears that the bank's most valuable asset - its staff - might leave before a deal was finalised. Having soared over the last month by more than 20 per cent on speculation that a deal was imminent, they closed 49.5p lower yesterday at 1697.5p.

Mr Taylor said the decision to sell the equities and mergers and acquisitions advisory arms of BZW had been taken around two weeks ago, but staff were only informed officially at an early morning meeting at the investment bank's new headquarters in London's Docklands yesterday.

The disposal follows months of increasingly feverish speculation about the future of BZW. Mr Taylor has been under considerable pressure from investors to improve the returns from investment bank-

Barclays said it would hold on to BZW's markets division and its debt-reequity arms, which it will group together within the bank as Barclays Capital Group. Goldman Sachs has been appointed to advise on the sale of the remainder.

Mr Taylor defended his decision to announce the intention to sell before a buyer had been secured, saying it would provide BZW's staff with "clarity". He said the initial "shock, sadness and disappointment" of staff had quickly been replaced by an understanding that the move was inevitable, given the changing nature of the equities market.

Few in the City believed that Barclays would have announced the sale without having a potential bidder in the wings. Yesterday's move was seen as a ruse to flush out other possible buyers. One analyst said Barclays' claim not to have had private discussions with buyers was "ludicrous".

Germany's Commerzbank, ING of Holland, Switzerland's UBS and Paribas of France are seen as the front-runners in the auction. One rumour circulating yesterday suggested that Barclays already had four sealed bids.

Both BZW and its rival NatWest Markets have found themselves squeezed between the so-called bulge bracket of giant American investment banks, which have flourished on the back of an enormous domestic franchise, niche UK players such as Flemings, Schroders and Close Brothers, and the continental banks that are pouring millions of pounds of investment into London.

Mr Taylor said yesterday the world of investment banking was changing rapidly from a series of national brokerages to one dominated by big global players. He believed the investment needed to join that elite club was too large, and the returns too uncertain, to justify the risks involved.

Bill Harrison added: "The issue is the investment required to provide the primary and derivatives focus which elevates the scale and nature of the business in a very competitive market. The competition lated restructuring, lending and private gradient is steepening all the time."



Uncertain future: Following Barclays' announcement yesterday, BZW staff are worrying about the identity of their new owner

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be sold as relatively small in the context of BZW, representing about £200m of the firm's total income of nearly £700m last year. He warned that redundancies, especially in back office functions which employ 3,500 out of a worldwide total of 7,500. were inevitable.

Bill Harrison said he was leaving BZW because he had come to run an integrated business and the decision to break up the firm was not consistent with that vision. He added, however, that he understood completely the competing demands on capital that Mr Taylor faced and respected the

The decision by Barclays to throw in the towel in investment banking means this year comes close to matching the traumas of 1995 for the sector. That year saw the collapse of Barings, the sale of Warburgs to

Mr Taylor described the operations to SBC and the purchase of Kleinwort Benson and Smith New Court by Dresdner Bank and Merrill Lynch respectively.

Mr Harrison caused shockwaves at BZW when he was hired following the death of former chief executive David Band in 1996 on a package worth £6m over five years. A blunt operator, whose Birmingham accent set him apart from the City's smoother types, he is variously described as a "human dynamo, robust and rebellious" and less favourably as "Attila the Brum".

His management style has been described as "bouncing off the walls, inspiring staff and terrorising his enemies with his own brand of raw energy". Within months of arriving at BZW last September, he replaced almost all its senior staff, spending heavily on recruitment to replace a steady stream of defectors who were unhappy with the new more aggressive regime. Having famously described time at home as "a wasted marketing opporfunity", Mr Harrison is not expected to be out of a job for long. Martin Taylor confirmed that he would be receiving compensation but would not say how much. The enormity of the task facing Mr Har-

rison when he arrived at BZW last year was underlined within months of his appointment by a slump in its profits during 1996 from £289m to £204m. Barclays' shares crashed following the announcement of its results as investors focused on the drag to the group's overall return on capital from investment banking. Martin Taylor described BZW's performance as inadequate, effectively putting the division on probation.

Like rival NatWest Markets, BZW has

strong US rivals and been squeezed by the willingness of its continental peers to accept relatively low returns on equity. Because they make comparatively poor returns in their home markets, the returns from UK investment banking look relatively attractive.

The timing of the sale is ironic, coming just as BZW appeared to be heading in the right direction again. Interim results in August showed a decline in profits from £148m to £124m, but that included a £20m derivatives hit, and compared well with the £42m made in the second half of 1996.

Bob Diamond, chief executive of BZW's markets business, is staying with the bank to run Barclays-Capital Group. Jonathan Davie, BZW's deputy chairman, is to chair the businesses that are to be sold. Steve Harker, the head of equities, who was initially reported to have refailed to compete with its enormously signed, is understood to be staying on.

C&W chief could earn £1.7m following 'golden handcuff' package

Cable & Wireless has doubled the share bonus package of Dick Brown, its chief executive, and raised his salary by a third, in an attempt to prevent him from moving to another job. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on a scheme which could see Mr Brown earn £1.7m in this year, but only if he stays on at the company for three

Leading shareholders in C&W were told of Mr Brown's pay increase in a recent letter, as the company attempted to gauge reaction to a package which would give him a minimum annual share bonus worth 80 per cent of his salary. The new pay award amounts to a "golden handcuff" arrangement to encourage the Mr Brown, a US citizen who joined C&W in July 1996, to stay at the helm until 2000.

C&W launched the review after fears that Mr Brown would be approached with a job offer from AT&T, the world's second largest phone company. AT&T has been searching for a new chief operating officer after the surprise resignation of John Walter in July. Mr Walter, who was paid \$22m when he joined AT&T last year, left after being refused the chairman's job.

It is understood that Brian Smith, C&W's chairman, appointed outside consultants to review Mr Brown's pay the day after Mr Walter resigned. They measured his salary against other international telecommunications companies, including MCI and AT&T, and found Mr Brown's compared "very unfavourably". C&W declined to comment on whether he had actually made it on to AT&T's shortlist.

C&W yesterday confirmed the details of the package, which included raising Mr Brown's basic salary by a third, from £487,500 to £650,000. The increase took effect during the current financial year, which started on I April, despite the fact that some investors have yet to give the company their verdict.

It is the share bonus element of the package which is likely to prove the most controversial. C&W has doubled the total possible share bonus award under its long-term incentive plan from 60 per cent to 120 per cent of salary. The new bonus scheme would only take effect if Mr Brown stayed with C&W for

The increase, which applies solely to Mr

Brown, could see him awarded C&W shares worth up to £780,000 this year. To gain the maximum bonus, C&W's earnings have to grow at 15 per cent above inflation over a three-year period. No changes were made to the performance targets during the pay review.

Most surprisingly, the minimum award of shares possible under the scheme has gone up from 10 per cent of salary to 80 per cent, almost guaranteeing Mr Brown a £520,000 share bonus, compared with just £65,000 under the old scheme. The minimum award is paid out if C&W's earnings grow at 2.5 per cent above inflation over a three-year period.

Under the existing remuneration scheme Mr Brown is also entitled to an annual cash bonus on top, worth up to 40 per cent of salary, which would give him another £260,000. Taken together, the basic salary and short and long-term bonus plans would give Mr Brown a £1.69m pay packet this year, assuming C&W meets the top performance criteria. He was paid £1.24m last year, including a £306.517 relocation allowance.

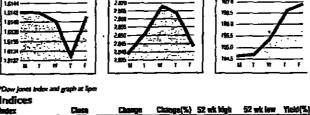
It would make him one of the best paid chief executives of a company in the FTSE 100 share index. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom, is on a £570,000 salary. while Sir Iain Vallance, executive chairman, is paid £500,000.

Sources close to C&W indicated big shareholders were mostly happy with the bonus scheme. But one investor canvassed yesterday warned that the increase in the minimum share bonus, with no rise in performance targets, was worrying. "I suspect it's a rather large bonus payment for pretty mediocre performance targets. We would like to see the targets based on peer group comparisons in the telecoms industry and total shareholder returns, including share price increases."

C&W said Mr Brown's success in his first year had made him a "highly marketable international chief executive". Mr Smith continued: "The chairman's job is to get the best talent and to keep it. I don't want another head-

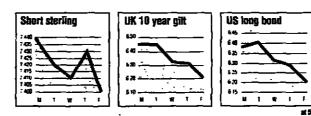
hunting exercise." The company's prospects have improved markedly under Mr Brown, who joined after the high-profile resignations of Lord Young. chairman, and James Ross, chief executive. He swiftly put together deals to merge Mercury Communications, C&W's main UK business, with three cable companies and secured an agreement with China over the future of Hong Kong Telecom, C&W's most lucrative cash row. Over the past year C&W's share price has risen by 33 per cent.

STOCK MARKETS



FTSE 100	5330.80	34.70	0,66	5 <u>317.10</u> _	3900.40	3.29
FISE 250	4883.90	22.60	0.47	4861.30	4348.10	3.35
FTSE 350	2555.30	15.70	0,52	2545.60	1949.20	3.30
FISE All Share	2492.41	15.12	0.61	2482.39	1925,79	3.29
FTSE SmallCap	2360.8	11.10	0.47	2374.20	2128.40	3.14
FTSE Redding	1301.9	4.90	0.38	1346.50	1198.70	3.28
FTSE AIM	1005.4	-1.40	-0.14	1138.00	1002.10	0.97
Dow Jones	8089.66	63.11	0.79	8259.31	5921.57	1.65
Nikkel	17647.45	192.41	1.10	21612.30	17303.65	0.89
Hang Seng	15128.02	78.72	0.52	16673.27	11905.51	2.73
Dax	4273,71	76.73	1.83	4438.93	2659.25	1.87

INTEREST RATES

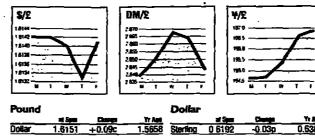


MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Bond Yields
18 year 1 yr chg Lang boad 1 yr chg
6.20 -1.17 6.27 -1.56

Rises	Price (pt	Che (gr	% Chiga	علاه	Price (p)		% Chga
Brit Energy	354,50	21.50	6.46	Biocompatibles	585.00	-42.50	-6,77
Bodycote Inti	1054.00	46.50	4.62	United Assur	491.50	-22.00	-4.28
WH Smith	381.50	16.00	4.38	Rolls Royce	243.00	-10.50	-4.14
Brit Telecom	459.50	17.50	3.95	Brit Biotech	149.50	-5.50	-3.55

CURRENCIES



2,3962

174.43 Yen

D-Mark 1.7597 -1.38pf

121.83 <u>40.05</u>

87.30 \$ index 105.00 OTHER INDICATORS

· 4 6 em	Close		Yr Age		lodez	Chi	As siles	Heat Hys
or 6 get Brent Oil (S)	20.86	0.48	23.24	GDP	112.80	3.50	109.0	24-0ct
Gold (\$)	333.45	1.40	380.25	RPI	158.50	3.5	153.14	07-Oct
Silver (\$)	5.15	-0.04	4.90	Base F	lates	7.00	5.75	

Spottiswoode signals her intention to step down

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, is unlikely to stay on in the post when her contract expires next year, unless the Government moves swiftly to merge the electricity and gas watchdogs. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on the growing dilemma for Labour as ministers review the shape of utility regulation.

Ms Spottiswoode, who is paid a salary of £90,000, is understood to be reluctant to continue as gas regulator when her five-year contract at Ofgas, the industry watchdog, comes up for renewal on 31 October 1998. In most previous cases regulators have been asked to stay at the helm for a second term. However, Ms Spottiswoode has warned she is unlikely to commit herself for another five years, though she has not made a final decision.

She would be the second utility regulator to leave the job since Labour came to power. Last month Don Cruickshank, the telephones regulator, said he had decided not to ask for another five-year term at the belm of Oftel, insisting he was looking for new challenges.

It is understood Ms Spottiswoode shares the same worries about her position at Ofgas, after full domestic gas competition is introduced across the UK next summer. She believes most of the big challenges involved in reforming the gas market would have been addressed, leaving her a reduced role in the future.

The much touted merger of Ofgas and Offer, the electricity watchdog, would have encouraged Ms Spottiswoode to seek another term. But she has apparently received no steer from the Department of Trade on when the rationalisation would take place, if at all.

John Battle, industry minister, has previously indicated he would favour a merger on the grounds that many companies, such as British Gas, are to sell both gas and power. However, Mr Battle has suggested it would be better to wait until the domestic electricity market has opened up, a process which is due to take place next year but is widely expected to be delayed.

It was unclear yesterday whether Ms Spottiswoode had told the Government of her likely decision, though ministers are aware of her keenness to merge Offer and Ofgas. The DTI is reviewing utility regulation and is due to publish a Green Paper on the whole system in December.

Ms Spottiswoode's reign at Ofgas has been controversial. She persuaded the Conservative government to push new gas legislation through parliament as the precursor to domestic competition. Trials of residential competition have been a success, despite concerns about billing difficulties and doorstep selling tactics.

Another success was the victory over price controls for the former British Gas's pipeline business, Transco. But in recent months she has been under pressure, with fears that low-income customers were getting little benefit from competition, and concerns about selective price cuts introduced by

Glaxo Wellcome ditches Biotech alliance

Glaxo Wellcome said yesterday that it would not now proceed with work on two new arthritis compounds from British Biotech after toxicity problems forced it to abandon early clinical trials on British Biotech's pill for arthritis and bowel disease. Glaxo had paid British Biotech £11m for the rights to develop the drug, called BB-2983. In a sector already floored by a plague of had news this year, British Biotech's shares

fell heavily, closing 10 per cent down at 134p. British Biotech called the news "disappointing," but said that BB-293 was at a very early stage of development, where high failure rates were common. "This is what happens in normal drug development." The company said that although BB-2983 and British Biotech's key cancer drug marimastat belong to the same class of MMP inhibitor compounds, the development

of marimastat, currently in final stage clinical trials, was "completely unaffected"

While both drugs are known to cause joint pain, the toxicity problems which halted the BB-2983 trials were "totally unexpected" and had never been seen in marimastat. The group said that it is currently collecting toxicity data on another of its MMP inhibitors, BB3644 for multiple sclerosis which it is developing itself. British Biotech said the absence of cash from Glaxo for developing the drug was not material to its funding plans. Jo Walton, drug analyst at Lehman Brothers said BB-2983 was never expected to reach market before 2010 and was "irrelevant" to British Biotech's valuation, taking just 2p off her 150p net present

— Sameena Ahmad

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JEREMY WARNER

What happened to vision and ambition?

This has been a bad week for the global ambitions of corporate Britain. BT's plans to merge with MCI of the US and join the super-league of world selecom companies are pretty much dead in the water following the counter bid from WorldCom, while Barclays, our last hope of a British owned global investment bank, yesterday announced that it was throwing in the towel,

Both moves were greeted with visible relief in the City. BT's share price danced for joy, and while reaction to the news from Barclays was a little more muted, everyone agreed it was the right thing for the bank to be doing. What's wrong with our financial markets that they could think in this way? Where's the vision and the ambition for our

companies? Where's the chutzpah? BT forced to abandon its global ambitions? Excellent news, says the City and our mostly enfeebled press. Victory for common sense and all that. Can't let this lot gambie our money away empire building around the world. Barclays to give up on its attempt to create a global investment bank. Shame really that one, but, bey,

what chance did they ever have? Both reactions are understandable enough. A good business and investment case can be made for each of them. But they also seem symptomatic of a wider failure of nerve and imagination.

There's no problem with this sort of thing on Wall Street, which seems only too delighted to back its best industrialists and entrepreneurs as they shoot for the stars. It may be fashionable these days to knock the Continental economics, with their archaic labour and capital markets, but they too seem prepared to take the long view as their corporations prepare for the challenges of the twenty first century and the integrated world economy.

Not so here in Britain where executive success seems to be measured only in terms of share buybacks, special dividends and good housekeeping. Here the obsession is with short term shareholder value, the cautious approach and generally reigning in. It's a bad business which future generations will curse us for.

Everything might seem hunky dory in the British economy right now, but the long drawn out post war process of abdicating economic power and influence around the world continues unabated. Cynicism rules our companies as it does our markets. Our opportunity to fight back is being squandered as all around us seize theirs. Our obsession with short term shareholder value perverts our judgement and destroys our purpose.

Britain's failure to create a top notch integrated investment bank capable of com-

The closer other countries get to the red base

peting on a world scale requires some detailed explaining, for of all our post war corporate failings, this one is perhaps the hardest of the lot to understand. Financial services is meant to be one of the things Britain is good at, like pop music, pharmaccuticals and croquet. The City is one of the three great financial centres in the world. In some markets it is now bigger and better than Wall Street. Why is it, then, that no British institution has been able to make a go out of investment banking?

All serious attempts at it - SG Warburg, Kleinwort Benson, NatWest Markets, and now BZW - have foundered essentially on the same thing - they were in the end just too small to succeed. When push came to shove, no one was prepared to invest capital on the scale necessary to make them work. The City has flourished not on its British content, but on foreign capital, institutions and management sys-

Investment banking in its modern form is largely an American creation. The dominant "bulge bracket" houses of New York obtain their bulge from the powerful domestic franchise that the American economy gives them. Furthermore, deregulation came much earlier to Wall Street than the City, giving the Americans an almost unassailable lead in establishing unidifferent activities that make up an in-

By contrast, there is little in the way of domestic franchise to feed the City. Europe as a single market is still too fragmented and many cultured to provide anything approaching the level of support the American economy gives to Wall Street. Those that succeed in the City must do so on the international stage. Caught between the big global players and the small niche operators, the medium sized British investment bank is finding it progressively harder to compete.

As national financial markets transform into global ones, houses like BZW have found themselves caught in a vicious circle of decline. Pay is the major cost in an investment bank and is the primary reason why people want to work in them. To tempt top people with the right areas of expertisc away from the bulge bracket firms, BZW found itself having to pay a premium.

its already unfavourable rates of return would be further damaged in the process and it found itself slipping further and further behind. Inevitably, Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, came to the conclusion that he could not risk the capital necessary to turn the situation - that BZW would be better off as part of a group

fied corporate cultures from the blend of with complementary franchises in Europe or the United States so that it could share in their economies of scale.

Put like this, the arguments appear so compelling that it perhaps seems odd it took Barclays so long to see them. It is only a year ago that Mr Taylor hired Bill Harrison, a no nonsense Brummie from Robert Fleming, with the brief of doing what he now thinks impossible, or too high risk to attempt - build a globally competitive investment bank. Just six months ago, Mr Taylor was still refusing to concede defeat. Two events have intervened since then. First, the fall from grace of National Westminster Bank, hung out to dry by its own attempts to build a global investment bank, NatWest Markets. After all he has achieved at Barclays, Mr Taylor can hardly be blamed for thinking, "oo, er". Second is the merger of Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers in the US. The squeeze BZW is already feeling can

only get worse. All the same, Mr Harrison was never really given the chance to make it work. Perhaps his next port of call should be one of big Continental banks, many of whom seem prepared to invest what it takes to succeed in investment banking. What a shame we are all too scared in Britain to

Transmission merger brings

The creation of a single ITY company came a step closer yesterday with news that the network's transmission facilities are to be consolidated. As Cothy Newman reports, streamlining the existing 12 programme transmission centres into fewer than four is likely to cost up to 200 jobs, and could save ITV £15m.

ITV's move to rationalise the way it transmits its programmes reflects the concentration of ownership within the network, and supports suggestions from some observers that ITV may eventually be controlled by a single owner.

A working party has been established to examine how efficiencies could be extracted from the transmission network, and findings are to be presented to key decision-makers at the next meeting of the ITV Council, the network's sover-

Industry sources estimate that around 200 jobs could be eliminated by the rationalisathe money saved - which insiders involved in the working party say could amount to £15m - in its digital terrestrial television output. Extra funds are also likely be poured into programming, which ITV is keen to improve in its battle to maintain audience share against the cable and satellite

The saving would be particularly welcome for ITV, which is to lose the £70m fee

GMTV, Carlton and LWT share programme transmission facilities, each of the franchises tions, Granada Group, Scottish Media Group and United chises between them.

A spokesman for ITV Network Centre yesterday confirmed that the ultimate aim was to replace the 12 centres with one or two and said: There are a group of ITV companies which are now controlled by far fewer owners, who recognise they are duplicating

Industry observers also

mission centres were excessive

pace of change has been hectic, as ITV faces up to the need for greater consolidation in the face of competition from Channel 4 and 5, and cable and satellite television.

were awarded to 14 separate holding companies. Only three independent operators now remain, and one of those - Ulster Television - is looking increasingly vulnerable to a bid from

a later stage.



Italian political crises aside, confidence that European monetary union will go ahead on time has taken an upswing. The recent leak suggesting the UK will join in the first wave made little difference to sentiment.

Though the leak was supported yesterday by Labour's Peter Mandelson, speaking on Irish television, the Treasury later backtracked, saying Labour's position had not changed.

Gwyn Hacche at James Capel said both Germany and France are more clearly committed to meeting budget deficit targets. Germany now estimates that its 1997 half-year deficit will be 3.1 per cent of GDP, In France, the Socialists. initially resistant to targets, now predict they will achieve a

3 per cent deficit in 1998. Members of the Italian communist party are threatening to derail the government's tough 1998 budget if proposed pension reforms go through, unsettling the markets. However, Michael Lewis at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "The Italians will not allow this crucial budget to be knocked off course."

-Sameena Ahmad

IN BRIEF

Mobile numbers will be portable from 1999

Mobile phone users will be able to keep their number when they switch to different networks by the end of next year, under plans revealed by Don Cruickshank, the telephones regulator, yesterday. After a long running consultation process with the four mobile companies, Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One, Mr Cruickshank ruled that operators should introduce number portability from 1 January 1999. Vodafone, which had pushed for a seven-month delay to the process, said the decision was "disappointing", though Orange had pushed strongly for a speedier introduction. The companies were given until 17 October to make a formal response.

Minimum wage warning

Representatives of more than 1,200 companies in the engineering sector yesterday warned the Low Pay Commission about potentially damaging "knock-on" effects of the national minimum wage. The statutory pay limit could mean that employees would seek to maintain wage differentials and some companies would grant such increases in order to attract, motivate and keep highly skilled staff, the Engineering Employers' Federation argued. In its submission yesstatutory minimum should be uprated in line with economic circumstances, not annually on the basis of a formula linked to average earnings or inflation.

Alarms offer on the cards

Shares in Tunstall Group rose almost 20 per cent yesterday after news that senior managers were looking at the possibility of making an offer for the alarm systems firm. The company said the interest by senior managers was "at a very preliminary stage".

Seton finance chief leaves

Seton Healthcare, the healthcare group which makes Woodward's gripe water, said yesterday that Roger Humphreys, its finance director, is to resign. He leaves at the end of October to be replaced by Paul Sanders who joins from Arthur Andersen.

Tomkins to buy bakery

Tomkins, the food products company, is to buy Golden West bakery, which supplies McDonald's, for £70m. Golden West, which also makes syrups and ketchups, recorded sales of £69m

Arcadian talks continue

Arcadian International, the hotels and leisure group, said yesterday that talks with a potential bidder were continuing. Chief Executive Robert Breare announced that profits for the six months to July had more than doubled to £1.1m.

a single ITV company closer

tion. ITV would invest some of companies.

it receives from Channel 4 Outside London, where

has its own centre, despite the fact that Carlton Communica-News & Media own 12 fran-

costs unnecessarily."

pointed out that ITV's 12 trans-

when compared to Channel 4 or the BBC, which both use a single location to transmit their programmes. Gerry Robinson, chairman

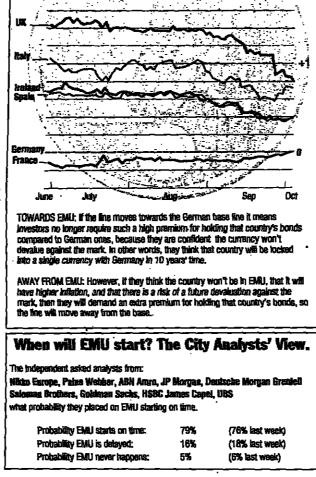
of Granada Group, said in June that the ITV companies would merge into a single group within a decade. Over the past four years, the

In 1993, the 15 franchises

Scottish Media.

So far this year, there have been three ITV mergers. Most recently, United - which owns the Anglia and Meridian franchises - snapped up HTV.

Scottish Media recently bought Grampian and Granada made its long-awaited swoop on Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, Granada also owns LWT, and could, according to some City analysts, make a move on Border Television at



Pace lifted on chief appointment

Shares in Pace Micro Technology, which have almost halved since the television set-top box maker floated last year, recovered 3p to 60.5p yesterday after the company finally

Malcolm Miller, European chief executive of Sega Enterprises, will fill the void left by Barry Rubery, the company's founder who quit last February.

appointed a new chief executive

Pace, which came to the market last June at 172p, has been in the doldrums for some time. Digital broadcasting, which will lead to the indroduction of hundreds of new TV channels, has been

slow to take off around the world, delaying orders for Pace's set top boxes which are used to decode TV pictures. Mr Rubery departure coincided

with a profits warning. Steve Jones, Pace's finance director and cofounder, also resigned in June.

Mr Miller has been at the Japanese computer games manufacturer since 1994, and is to take his post at Pace before the end of the year. He spent 16 years at Amstrad, the computer and electronics company, and became managing director in 1992.

Peter Morgan, chairman of Pace,

said: "He has expertise in the fast-moving competitive electronic retailing field and previous experience as man-

aging director of a public company." Mr Miller, who is 42, has successfully integrated Sega's consumer division, and has been credited with returning it to profit. At Amstrad, Mr Miller was largely responsible for the acquisitions of Viglen and Dancall. David Hood, another co-founder of Pace who had been sharing the chief executive's role with Mr Morgan, will become director of technology.

Bass bought its first Czech brewer four years ago and is now trying to take control of Radegast, the second biggest brewer in the country. Bass has built up a 33.4 per cent stake in the company, but yesterday a Czech bank sold its stake to a financial company

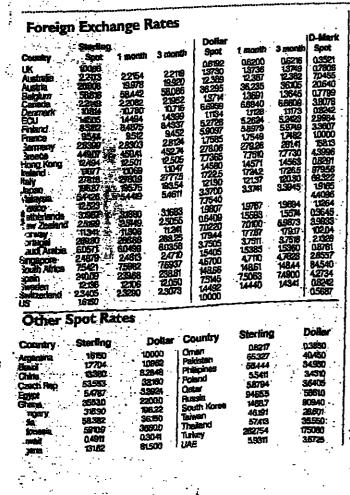
controlled by Nomura.

vakia brewing business.

Investioni a Postroni Banka (TPB) Bass, the drinks giant which is keen to and its partner Pruni Investioni have expand overseas, having had its bid for Carlsberg-Tetley blocked by Margaret sold their combined 15.5 per cent stake Beckett in the UK, now faces a bitter in Radegast to IMP Finance, which is controlled by Nomura. battle with the Japanese bank Nomura in its attempt to grow its Czechoslo-

Bass faces Czech brewing battle

It emerged a month ago that IMP Finance wants to merge Radegast with the largest brewery in the country. Pizenske Brazdroj. Bass has not been informed of the deal. Combined market share of the merged company would total 41 per cent. Bass last week filed a lawsuit against IPB over alleged breaches of nine areas of the Czech commercial code.



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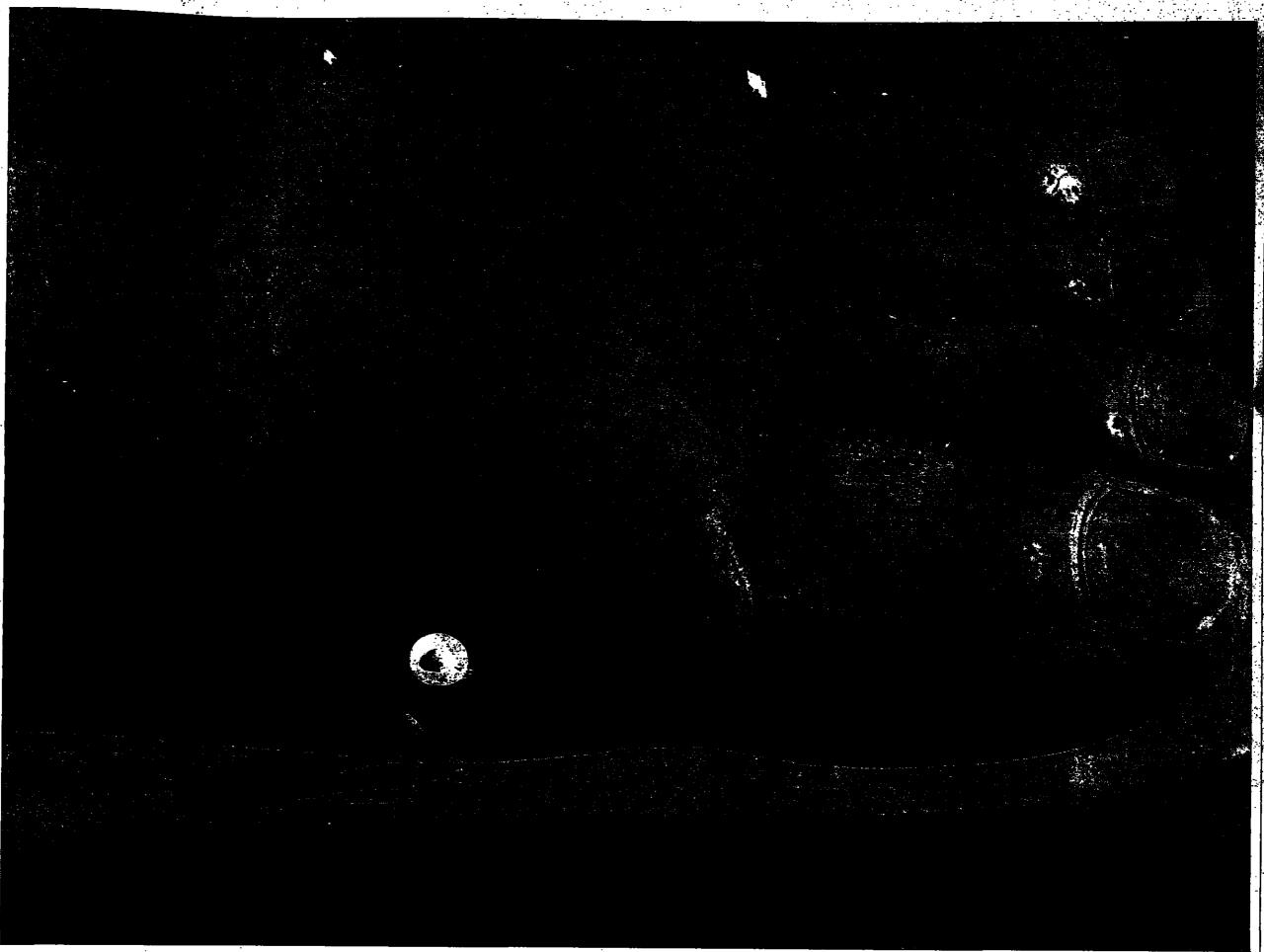
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26/THE BIG PICTURE

Focus on the institution that coloured our view of the world





A selection of photographs from The National Geographic Society - 100 Years of Adventure and Discovery, an updated centennial history of the society by CDB Bryan.

Top: Toes of the world's largest sitting Buddha, carved out of cliff face overlooking the convergence of three rivers at Leshan, China, in the hope that it would protect boatmen from the treacherous currents.

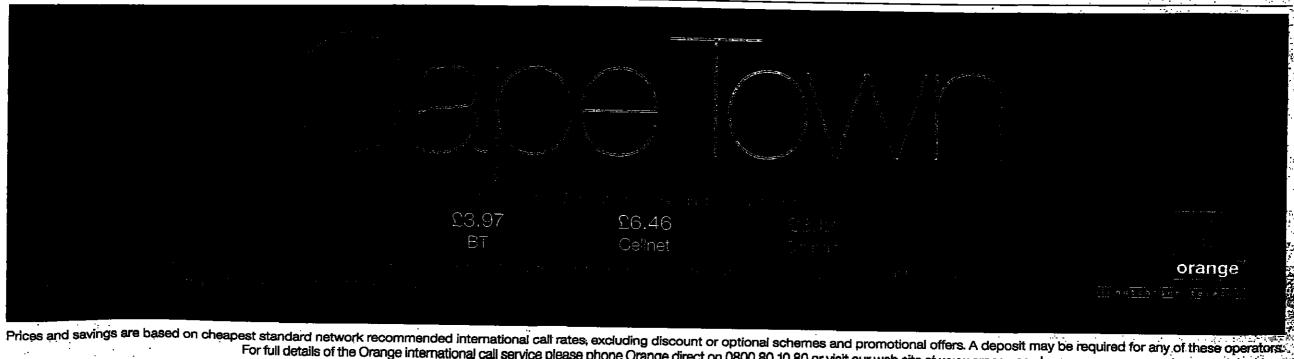
Left: An Afghani girl at a refugee camp in Pakistan where she fled in 1985 seeking shelter from the fighting in her homeland.

Right: A 1928 autochrome of a Tibetan dancer playing the role of the King of Hell.

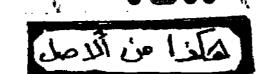
The full-colour illustrated book, published by Abrams, is priced at £34.95, and will be available in the shops this month.



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TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 4 October 1997

Photograph: Harriet O'Brien

High society

The Berber tribes of Morocco's Atlas Mountains have conjured verdant valleys out of a stark and spectacular landscape. So when you find such oases of greenery, you may think you're in a close approximation to paradise. But, says Harriet O'Brien, watch out for the company you are with.

It looked, absurdly, as if we were walking straight into the Garden of Eden itself. There we were in a pink and rocky wilderless in the heights of the High Atlas Mountains in southern Morocco. We followed a trickle of running water and, as it got broader, wound our way down into a sudden miracle of greenery: a valley bursting with fig trees, pomegranates and tiny fields of maize. We were accompanied by

tle disturbs the tranquillity here: there's practically no crime, not much violence (cer-

tainly no drunkenness; this is a good Muslim area), and, so they claim, few serpents. But perhaps they're reckoning without the tourists.

We had just finished peeling off our walking boots and examining our blisters, trophies of the day's challenge, when the boy and girl racers of the adventure travel world swept up. From about 6.30 that evening the mountain bikers straggled in. all Lycra, sweat and Oakley sunshades, collapsing exhausted into the gite in the little Berber village of Wawriykt. Hikers and bikers, we quickly discovered, create their own uneasy culture clash. Particularly when they are squeezed into a confined space in a remote Moroccan village whose population they have just swollen by nearly a quarter.

Space was one thing, attitude quite an-

"Chicken and children are fair game," Baz announced later that evening. "You don't have to give way to them. But you shouldn't," he added, "slap the rump of

of irrigation ditches bringing life to a Baz (Sebastian) was the British tour made hammam - a Moroccan version of ern Africa's hybrid answer to the Hibarren place. Apart from the odd fend over guide to the group of 16 mountain bikers. a Turkish bath-house, with a hot-water barmalayan hike and the Tuscan walking tour. water rights, the local people say that lit- and was briefing his team for day two of rel heated by charcoal lit beneath the floor. And with reason. Not only is this a cheap their 10-day trip. Meanwhile, squashed together, sitting on the floor at the far end of the gite's overcrowded dining- and sleeping-area, we walkers listened and looked on with indignation. Baz, we appreciated, was speaking in slight jest, but we couldn't help-feeling that beneath this attempt at humour there was a jarring lack of respect for the local community. And, what was worse, privately we realised that

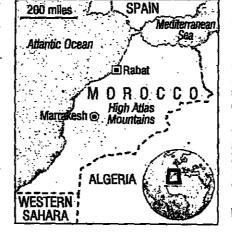
we ourselves were not above reproach. Outwardly, however, we clung precariously to the moral high ground. We had booked with the same tour operator as the cyclists. But as walkers we liked to think of ourselves as socially and environmentally sensitive travellers: a group of nine who had signed up for five days' hiking in a starkly spectacular landscape, leaving (as green campaigners urge) only footprints.

It was to be, so the Exodus Travels brochure and itinerary had implied, a holiday on the comfortable side of basic: four nights sleeping inside, or on the roof - un-

der the stars - of a Berber home turned gite. This had the comparative luxury of two Asian-style loos, two cold showers and,

a constant gurgle from a clever combination any mules. That would be antisocial." wonderfully unexpected, its own home. High Atlas Mountains has become north-

Numbers would, the innerary had stated, be limited to fewer than 12. We were tospend several days getting right away from it all, staying in an area without roads or electricity and walking five to seven hours a day around the contours of one of northern Africa's most geologically stunning areas. Trekking (and indeed cycling) in the



and fairly convenient area to reach (air fares to Marrakesh, a two-hour bus ride from the mountain range, are a lot lower than those to Asia), it also offers a staggering landscape of awe-inspiring panoramas; strange, vividly coloured rock formations; and, of course. magically green valleys above which nestle

little mud-brick Berber villages. All of which sound like great ingredients for a challenging fresh-air holiday. The reality, though, can be gruelling for those who, literally, don't have the stomach or time

to acclimatise to some rough going. For a start, the local Berber people rightly think you're nuts as you clomp off, walking through the heat of the day to arid, empty spaces. It's tough terrain, too: lose your concentration as to where you're placing each foot and you could stumble badly over the rocks, doing yourself a serious injury in the middle of nowhere. And then there's the harsh, unrelenting sun: our group went down like ninepins as heatstroke exacerbated any queasy unfamiliarity with the local food.

But if you survive all this in an upright position, you get a tremendous sense of Continued next page

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مكذا من ألاصل

TRAVEL 2/City break: Lisbon 5/Bats and boats in the Caribbean

LEISURE 12/Monopoly walk

SPORT

17/The Arc: preview of Europe's richest horse race

24/Tony Adams interview



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48 hours in the life of ... Lisbon

You need a break - and a shortcut to the soul of a city. This week, Simon Calder checks out a capital caught between centuries.

Why go now?

Because the fragile façades of Lisbon, which endow the Portuguese capital with such soul, are crumbling rapidly beneath an onslaught of modernity: while half the city is being dug up for the new subway, the other half is being refurbished for next year's Expo. New, cheap flights have opened up the city as an accessible weekend destination. And it's one Continental capital where you don't have to adjust your watch.

Beam down

The lowest fare to Lisbon is likely to be on AB Airlines (0345 464748) from Gatwick; flying next weekend, the cheapest return is £131 including tax. Portugalia (0990 502048) flies from Manchester, but not at weekends; leaving next Friday and returning on Monday costs £201. British Airways (0345 222111) and TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) fly from Heathrow.

Get your bearings

The helpful tourist office outside the customs hall at the airport (open 6am-2am) will provide you with a map of the city. The Aero-Bus runs to the centre between 7am and 8.40pm daily; as Lisbon airport is so close in, a taxi costs only £4.

The city sprawls along the north shore of the Tagus, but you need focus on only three basic areas. The flat part in the middle is Baixa (pronounced bye-sha). Rising to the west is Bairro Alto (approximately biru altu), and to the east Alfama.

Aim for the centre. Bairro Alto and Baixa have plenty of modest options; in the former, the Pensao Londres (rua Dom 6.200-9.200 escudos for a double room, corresponding to £21-£31. In Baixa, the Pensao Insulana at rua da Assunção 52 (00 351 1 342 3131) offers good value at 8,500 (£29) per night, including bathroom and TV. Breakfast is included in all these rates.

Take a ride

Tram 28 is one of Europe's great little journeys - an exercise in kinetic eccentricity as it sways up improbable gradients and squeezes through impossible gaps. Summer visitors missed out on the full glory of the route, but track repair work has now finished. For 150 escudos (about 50 pence), ride the whole, hilariously convoluted journey from Prazeres, west of Moniz (north of Baixa).

Take a hike

The tram reveals Lisbon to be defiantly three-dimensional. From its eastern termims, steer a southerly course to touch down amid the swirl of traffic around Baixa. Stay on the same heading, and soon you reach the foot of an Eiffel-designed lift called the Elevador Santa Justa. It hauls you from humdrum sea level to a higher plane. Sadly, subway work means you can't step deftly from the viewing platform into Bairro Alto; instead, descend again and wend your way there on a warm autumnal walk.

Lunch on the run

By the time you huff to the top end of rua Garrett, you'll need a coffee and pastry. The fine old Café A Brasileira, half hidden by subway hoardings, is a grand hall of ace-darkened wood and fresh, young faces reflected in a million mirrors. Lisbon's intelligentsia natters here for hours.

Cultural afternoon

Lisbon's chief civic characteristic is nattering in cafés, but there is also a streak of diligence - manifested at the Museu da Agua. Take a taxi to avoid a long, frustrating walk in an area where few seem to know of its existence. The reward is a palace of engineering, a frenzy of brass and steel in a former pumping station built in the days when municipal magnificence was mandatory.

Window shopping

The funniest piece of public transport in Lisbon is the Elevador da Bica, in which a lop-sided tram shuffles up and down a steep gradient. Near the top end is Work in Progress, an intriguing combination of clothes store, hairdresser and (possibly crucial as dusk gathers strength) a jolly bar.

An aperitif

Yet another Elevador - this one named Gloria - elevates you to the Solar do Vinho do Porto (Port Wine Institute). Sub-Pedro V 53, 00 351 1 346 2203) charges side into the deep leather armchairs of this handsome chamber of commerce, and choose something white and chilled from among hundreds of varieties of port.

Demure dinner

For quiet elegance, best stay at home; Bairro Alto on a Saturday night is not a peaceful place to be. But it possesses a staggering selection of restaurants on and around rua do Diario de Noticias.

Sunday morning: go to church

But don't go in. Lisbon's cathedral (which yesterday's tram had to swerve to avoid) is mostly memorable for the views from its
The stridently ramped nature of Lisbon south side over mottled terracotta roofs towards the broad Tagus - spanned, in the honour of a British monarch, is guaranteed distance, by the 25 April Bridge, doing its to yield grand prospects. An heroic new Tram 15 whisks you out west to Belem. pie with attitude and icing sugar) is mirac-

A walk in the park means its principle open space, named in

VII park, prime picnicking territory that Archaeological Museum or Jeronimo shelves gently down towards Baixa.

The icing on the cake

Defiantly three-dimensional Lisbon, a city with a streak of diligence

best to mimic San Francisco's Golden Gate. sculpture presides over the vast Eduardo Some misguided tourists come here for the ulous and more-ish, like the city itself.

roof. We blenched at the sanitary impli- of an idyllic valley - one that generations Worldwide Journeys (0171-381 8638), which also has seven-day trips. Best of Morocco (01380 828533) organises three-day

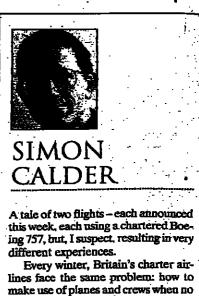
Monastery. But everyone eventually ends

up at Pasteis de Belem, a patisserie whose

pastel (the sole product: an exotic custard

For independent travellers, Marrakesh is the best gateway. In October, Royal Air Maroc (0171-439 4361) has daily flights from Heathrow via Casablanca for £360 including tax. For the same fare, GB Airways (a British Airways affiliate. 0345 222111) flies from Gatwick on Tuesday and Friday via Gibraltar.

Moroccan Information and Advice Centre, 61 Golborne Road, London W10



different experiences. Every winter, Britain's charter airlines face the same problem: how to make use of planes and crews when no one wants to fly anywhere much? All sorts of solutions are tried. Earlier this year, for example, cabin crew for Monarch Airlines found themselves routinely saddled with the arduous task of spending seven days in a luxury hotel in Costa Rica. This was the the happy

consequence of Monarch's once-aweek charter to Central America; it was cheaper to leave the crew in San José awaiting the next inbound flight than to fly them back to Britain. Now Air 2000 - which, by the way, has yet to take up any of the suggestions

offered by readers of this column to change its time-sensitive name - has announced a neat answer to the winter dol-: drums. As soon as the summer 98 schedules finish, the airline will rip out the 233 legroom-challenged seats from a Boeing 757 and replace them with just 92 first class armchairs. The plane then embarks on 25-night tour of the East, visiting "lost cities" such as Samarkand and Angkor Wat. The price: £17,469 all in.

If that sounds a tad too expensive, you could try a lengthy journey at the opposite end of the luxury scale. Five weeks from today, the charter airline Canada 3000 begins flights to Australia.

Nothing new in that, of course; Britannia Airways started charters to Australasia a decade ago. Britannia uses a wide-bodied 767, but Canada 3000 will employ a narrow-bodied 757. And while Britannia flies the well-established easterly route, stopping twice on its 25hour journey from Gatwick to Sydney, Canada 3000 seems intent on a tour of most of the airports in the western hemisphere.

A few hours after taking off from Gatwick, passengers will find themselves touching down to refuel at the NATO base in Keflavik, Iceland. Then, in none-too-quick succession, you visit Vancouver, Honolulu and Fiji. Having lost a day at the International Date Line, you finally reach Sydney about 34 hours after leaving Sussex.

While your befuddled brain tries to work out where you are and what day it is, take comfort from the shock awaiting the big-budget travellers abound Air 2000 private jet. In Cambodia, the group will overnight at the comfortable Phnom Penh Sofitel, no doubt looking forward to the following day's excursion to Angkor Wat - one of the undisputed wonders of the East.

When they get the capital's airport, though, they will discover that instead of their luxurious Boeing 757, they are obliged to travel in a Royal Air Cambodge aircraft. When I took this flight, it was aboard a doddery old Antonov; the "bodge" part of the airline's name was explained when the cabin filled with billowing clouds of condensation immediately after take-off. The airline has since replaced its Soviet aircraft with European prop-jets, but I bet the catering hasn't improved enough to live up to the "first class service all the way" tag. All in all, I'd rather fly to Keflavik.

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Bairro Alto, to the square named Martim

HIGH SOCIETY

From previous page

satisfaction. Those of us who retained the energy were taken over lunar-like landscapes to far-flung desert lakes and waterfalls. We walked for miles through scenery untamed by mankind, clambering through great canyons of boulders, weaving our way across aromatic plains of wild thyme where swooping house martins and silky lizards provided rare signs of life. And, just when we thought we'd civilisation, lunch could come trotting past on the back of a mule. About half-an-hour

cably laid out on a rug, with the mule driver brewing up peppermint tea which he would ceremoniously serve in a polished pewter teapot. This exercise in neat planning and delicate politeness was, we rapidly appreciated, one of the advantages of joining an organised tour.

In fact, it might all have been a happy experience were it not for the 16 mountain bikers and the feel-bad factor that came in their wake. Back at the gite we sweated our way well beyond reach of snarled at them with a dog-in-themanger-like attitude as they tripped over our walking boots and encroached on our further on we would find a meal impec- jealously guarded sleeping spaces on the

cations of such numbers, and we sneered inappropriate in a cover-up country like scape that lay beyond. Morocco.

And then we realised that, probably, they were just like us: tourists in search of a bit of adventure, wanting some understanding of the people and the places they were travelling through.

It was simply that, owing to the oversight of a tour operator back in Britain, there were too many of us. Lumped together we became an invading army. threatening the finely balanced ecology

of gentle Berber people had created out at their shiny Lycra thighs - how of the same dramatic, unforgiving land-

> Harries O'Brien paid £535 for a seven-day trip to Morocco through Exodus Travels (0181-675 5550). The price included flights, three nights' accommodation in Marrakesh and a five-day, all-inclusive trek in the High Atlas Mountains. Exodus Travels also offers two-week treks in the High Atlas, as do Explore Worldwide (01252 344 161); Headwater Holidays (01606 48699); Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717); and

> > Wearm

5NR (0181-960 6654).

hikes in the High Atlas.

WEATHER

59 57

5:31pm to07:07am

6:41pm to07:17am

to07:16am

to07:18am

to07:16an

13 55

16 61

F 19 66

Brighton

Dublin Edinburgh

Exeter

The British Isles Outlook For Today

It will be cloudy across Scotland with hill fog and light rain or drizzle, although the southeast should stay dry. Later in the day some heavier rain will break out in the north and north-west. Northern Ireland and north-west England will have a few spots of drizzle possible. Over the hills and some coasts it will be misty. Wales and the rest of England should stay dry with some brightness. Cloud in the east and south-east will break and a little sunshine will break through in most areas.

Rain over Scotland will spread across Northern Ireland and into northern England, with a few heavy bursts still possible. North-west Scotland will turn more showery with some brightness later. Wales and the rest of England will be dry through most of the day with

spells of sunshine. However, there is the threat of heavy showers or thunderstorms moving up from the south, affecting southwest England and south Wales in the evening.

F 17 63

C 18 64 n/a 15 59 S 18 64

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lpswich

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Isles of Scilly

.6:39pm to 7:19am .6:36pm to 7:17am

6:36pm to 7:19am

Plymouth

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S England Wales C England N England Scotland N Ireland

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Cold Occluded front Atlantic charts. Lives T and U will move east as High D de-clines. High E is sta-tionary. 44 WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy; (Jair; fg,fog; hz,hazy; m,mist; r,rain; sn,snow; s,sunny; th,thunder *previous day's figure at local time. Nairote New Del Oslo Pents Penting Pertin Prague Reykiavil Rhodes Rome Seoul Rome Seoul Rome Seoul Tail Awn Tenente Tokyo Tunis Valenta Vienna Warsaw Zurich

Europe and The World

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47

AA Roadwatch

London, All Leytonstone, Lane dosures at A12 roundabout until August

London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed until January 1998. Surrey, M25 J8-10, Lane closures both ways until further notice. Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow on Avormouth Bridge until August 1998, Staffordshire. A50 Stoke On Trent. Majorworks at Meiruntil March 1998. ricestershire, Ab Lockington, Contraflow near Mt J24.

Berkshire. A34 between M4 J13 Chicoeley Services and Newbury (A4). Readworks, controllow and narrow lanes with a 40 uph speed limit for the Newbury bypass work. Greater Manchester, A627 Bardsley.

Temporary lights on Ashton Rd Merseyside, A567 Bootle, Stanley Rd closed northbound until further notice. Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killineworth West Yorks, M1 J47. Major long-term

Bucks, M40 J1a-3. Roadworks with controllow J1a (M25) and J3.

Out and about with AA Road-watch cat 0336 401 for the latest local and rebonal uraffic news, Source: The Automobile Association, Colls charged at 50p per minute at all times (no W1).

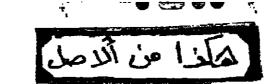
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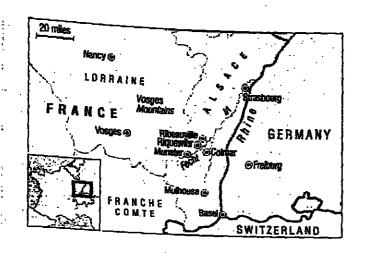
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The Sky at Night Magnitude scale:-4 3 2 1 0 Mars• Antares • 🗼 Venus

The crescent Moon clusters with brilliant Venus and the rather dimmer Mars and Antares low in the south-west at sunset (6.30 pm. BST), tomorrow (5 October) and Monday (6 October).

Following the new Moon last Wednesday, a clear sky at dusk this weekend will reveal the slender crescent of the new Moon low over the south-west horizon. Tomorrow the three-day-old Moon hangs in the sky just above Venus. Though Venus is very low by the time the Sun is setting at 6.30pm, BST, its sheer brilliance combined with the Moon to guide the eye should make it detectable where the horizon is uncluttered. Mars is also in the same area of sky, but is five magnitudes fainter than Venus. It is a much more difficult prospect without the aid of binoculars. Curiously, the nearest bright star to Mars is currently its rival in name and colour-Antares, and they are exactly the same brightness. Don't confuse the two. By Monday night, the enlarging crescent of the Moon roughly forms a line with Venus and Mars. At the end of the week, look for the gibbous Moon as it passes from one side of Jupiter to the other between Friday and Saturday nights (10th and 11th). lacqueline Mitton





Against a backdrop of medieval, overgrown castles and breathtaking valleys, the grape harvest has begun in Alsace. Ray Kershaw put in a vintage performance.

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Tu:

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r - 2.

By night, with floodlights oozing halos in the haze around its towers and walls, Riquewihr looked the part: a perfectly preserved medieval town. And inside the gates, despite the hive of activity up the cobbled Grand Rue, its restaurants serving baekaoffa and tartes flambees added the finishing touches.

The air was smokily autumnal but still T-shirt warm and, as has bappened every October for perhaps 2,000 years, over everything hung the heady, sweet smell of newly fermenting wine. People nibbled fresh walnuts, and every glass seemed filled with bubbling, milky neier siasser - wine from the grapes picked a few days before. In Alsace the vendange was once again in full swing.

The Alsatian Route des Vins winds its way 100 miles or so from near Strasbourg down past Colmar and between hthe west bank of the Rhine and the soaring escarpment of the Vosges mountains. It looks as wine country should, with scores of ancient villages picture-postcard pretty. Any one of Restored by Kaiser Wilhelm, it is now

them would be a pleasure to visit, but Riquewihr, at the heart of it all, is something else again. It sits cramped inside its ring of

medieval walls with scarcely a stone younger than the 16th century. There are mazes of alleys between carved and timbered houses. There are flowers everywhere. Riquewihr may not be big. but you can lose a whole day there. In the Thieves Tower you can view the medieval torture chamber. The headquarters of Hugel et Fils, founded in 1639 (family wine firms seldom come older) will have you reaching for a fresh roll of film.

From the top edge of the vineyards the dense Vosges forest, full of deer and wild boar, rises in one sweep to 4,000ft. We set off to explore. At vendange Riquewihr wakes early and as we left the little town the first tractor-load of grapes was already coming in to start the queue for the press, It was one of those mornings of mist and mellow fruitfulness. We could not, in fact, see much, but following the Sambach back towards the heights we filled our rucksacks with sweet chestnuts that were falling down around us on to the

forest floor. Later, we found ceps. The crests of the Vosges are serrated with old castles. The monolithic Haut-Koenigsbourg is today the most famous.

upon as they lie half-hidden in the trees. Our map told us that somewhere in the mist was the eastle of the Bilstein. Suddenly we emerged into bright sunshine and saw the tower, engulfed by greenery, perched on a crag. It seemed to float, an island in an occan of vapour. Clearly, few people came here. We ate our picnic lunch reclining against its sun-warmed sandstone: to our north and south were other islands,

little-known ruins that you have to

other castles hovering in a blue sky. Above the town of Ribeauville where on the first Sunday in Septem-

a symbol of Frenchness, glaring into ber the fountain runs with wine - there are no fewer than three castles. The Here we watched three generations of Germany across the Rhine plain. But the best, the most romantic, are the men who had them built were not prompted by the picturesque. Since before the days of the Romans this has squirm your way to, or just stumble been a sporadic battleground. And yet the centuries of shifting borders, sometimes French, sometimes German, have resulted in an intriguing amalgam of the Gallic and the Teutonic.

Alsace manages its languages without a second thought. The local daily appears in two editions - every story, every ad, word for word the same, but one in French, the other in German. People talking in the street slip easily from one language to the other.

We observed this same linguistic

vineyard, Riquewihr's most renowned. the Bronner family, plus a few friends, hard at work. The vine leaves had turned golden and the vineyard seemed to glow, the town walls at its foot shimmered in the sun. Jokingly they offered us an opportunity to help, showing us how to use the secateurs to cut clusters of some of the world's most expensive riesling grapes. After only half-an-hour our wrists were aching. Yet from dawn to dusk they had been harvesting for more than a week. Meanwhile, down in Riquewihr, every few hours a cavalcade of battered vans and rejoicing and scattering pedest-

streets boastfully proclaiming that their harvest was in.

Later that day we searched out the Bronners at what looked like a tiny house; inside, however, there was the gargantuan kitchen, one corner of which was taken up by a wine press. Here we were offered generous glasses of Schoenenbourg grand cru. Then M Bronner fetched six bottles from the cellar and stuck on the labels he keeps in the kitchen drawer. As a finishing touch he gave us a little discount, as wages for our work in the vineyard.

The gateway for the Alsace wine region decked with boughs of vines, hooting is Strasbourg; Eurostar (0345 303030) sells tickets from Waterloo via Paris. By case the next day at the Schoenenbourg rians, poured through the narrow air, Air Inter Europe flies from Heathrow.

The wrath of grapes: the backbreaking October harvest attracts old and young alike to the picturesque valleys of Alsace to gather some of the most expensive grapes in the world Photograph: jalain/Robert

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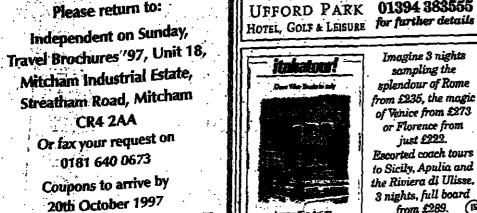
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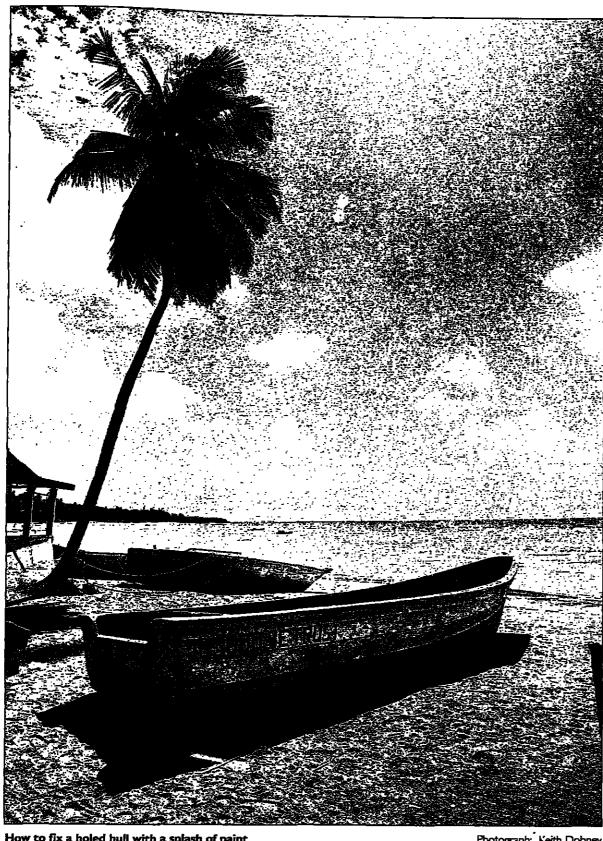
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How to fix a holed hull with a splash of paint

Photograph: Keith Dobney

A tack is the best form of defence

A Barbadian idyll turns sour when the beach vendors move in.

That's the time, says Mognius Mills, to seek sanctuary on the

The aloe vera man had spotted me again. Whenever he saw me sitting on the beach rubbing sun cream into my white British legs he would settle down nearby and begin chopping up a thick green stem with his machete. His plan was to mash up the pieces, squeeze them into a bottle and sell me the contents. Only pure aloe vera, he told me repeatedly, would protect me from the blazing sun. Unable to convince him that I was quite happy with my sun cream, I headed for my usual means of escape: the water sports centre.

This was, in fact, a small but situated beneath a coconut palm, but the sign said "water sports centre". Minutes later I was 100 yards from the shore in my Sunfish sailboat, safe from the aloe vera man.

Mind you, I wouldn't have been surprised if he'd come swimming after me. Of all the beach vendors on this side of Barbados, the aloe vera man was the most persistent. He did have a living to make, after all, and there was a lot of competition. An endless procession of vendors sold everything anyone needed for life on the sand. Coconuts, colourful print shirts, sun hats. I liked to imagine that there was a guy at the end of the beach checking all the vendors through a turnstile every 30 seconds or so.

Few of them managed to bother me, of course, because I was out in my Sunfish most of the day. These attractive little boats are perfect for the warm Caribbean waters. You can learn to sail them in about 20 minutes - they practi- retreat, for ever, beneath a starry sky on Thomson, Airtours, First Choice and United.

cally sail themselves, anyway. Up and down this warm rim of the Atlantic Ocean. the shore I sailed, counting the coconut Probably not. palms and watching local fishermen cast

Barbados looked even more beautiful when seen offshore over the gunwale of a tiny boat with a red-and-white-striped sail. I could lie with my feet over the side listening to the cricket commentary on my transistor radio. St Vincent vs Dominica.

Then one day I arrived at the water sports centre and found that sailing was cancelled. A red flag had been stuck in the sand to signal that the breakers were too big for safe launching. An unwelcome cold front had appar-

ently upset the usually tranquil sea. The hotel manager assured me that this kind of thing happened on only 10 or 12 days a year at the most.

Why not simply enjoy the very blueness of the sea?" he suggested

I spent the day drinking Bank's, the local beer, and discussing the very blueness of the sea with some German girls I met sunbathing along the beach. That night my wife defeated me thoroughly, comprehensively and categorically, at table tennis.

It gets dark very rapidly after sunset in the West Indies. The sunset itself happens quickly and with a sudden colour splash, and then, as the crickets begin madly rubbing their legs together and the rest of the tropical wildlife join in the chirping chorus, it's time to find a beach bar for the

We sat beneath spinning fans in a large, open-sided restaurant built on wooden stilts above the sea at Mullins Bay. I wondered if the local people ever get fed up with the constant sound of waves gently lapping the shore, over and over, surge and

The next day was my last on Barbados and I decided to see how far I could sail in my Sunfish. I left the beach and headed due west in the direction of St Vincent. Further and further I went, until I felt that to those on the shore I would be no more than a tiny speck on the horizon. All right, so I only went about a mile out -but at last I felt the true freedom of being at sea in an open boat. And immediately I began to wonder whether there were dangerous sharks in those waters. There aren't, so I was later told.

Not until the coconut and almond trees lining the shore became no more than an indistinguishable green barrier, did I turn back. The swell had risen and for some reason the sun had gone behind a cloud. As I approached the shore I could see the guys from the water sports centre standing there, waiting. They stood motionless beside the little hut under the coconut palm. Waiting.

"Hi, guys." I called, as I pulled up the rudder and surfed safely back on to the

"Great sail," I said, as they took hold of the boat and pulled it the last few yards up the sand. "I went out as far as I could

No reply. In silence they took down the mast, folded up the sails and locked them in the hut. The holiday was over.

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Scheduled flights to Barbados are available from Heathrow on BWL4 (0181-577 1100) and from Gatwick on British Airways (0345 222111). Charters and package holidays are offered by a range of companies, such as

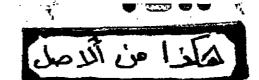
HIGH ROAD

The term "compulsory half-board" may have alarming resonances of public school for some, but in the new brochure from Tradewinds (0870-751 0005) it applies to the more benign institution known as Cobblers Cove in Barbados, a five-star hotel that is part of the Relais & Chateaux group. A week there departing 12 April next year, staying in a deluxe suite and flying Club World on British Airways, will cost a shade over £4,000 per person including the compulsory half-board supplement.

LOW ROAD

The company that pioneered low-cost Caribbean holidays was Airtours (01706 232323); a decade ago, it began charter flights to the region and offered prices as low as £299 for a week. The cheapest Airtours package to Barbados next. 12 April costs £589, staying at the Pirate's Inn. While you enjoy the same sun and sea as the High Road contingent who are paying seven times as much, you may be amused to reflect that Tradewinds is merely the upmarket brand name of





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In Jamaica, where cricket is a religion, it takes more than bad light to stop play Photograph: Glynn Griffiths



Willow in the Windies

Sir Sir 74 ()

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Fresh from a pasting in the Ashes, England expects ... to be pounded by the best pace attack in the world. But even if events don't go our way on the field in this winter's West Indies Test tour, there's no better place to suffer than the Caribbean. writes Daniel Synge.

Cold, dark days and the present onslaught of Premiership football mean that supporters of the summer game must tearfully consign their white floppy sun hats to the recesses of their sock drawers and dream of palm-fringed cricket. Unless, that is, they make for the likes of Jamaica's Sabina Park or Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval.

Those undeterred by the fact that Eng- last victorious England team to tour land's Ashes cause died on a soggy York- the West Indies, back in 1968. Now shire field back in July are now booking trips To the Caribbean this winter, where they in Crawley, Snow offers package will combine watching Test matches with deals starting at £1.455 (for 15 nights a tropical beach holiday.

Of course Mike Atherton will have the Spain, Trinidad and Tobago). more serious business of winning the fivematch series against the mighty West Test matches and five one-day inter-

Indies. The 3-1 humiliation in 1994 hardly augurs well for England's hopes, but happy memories will be evoked by that series' Barbados Test when hundreds of rum-fuelled Brits merrily invaded the Kensington Oval after England's historic win. And who could deny them their moment? Buoyed by the sunshine, a relentless carnival atmosphere and electric performances on the field, some England fans discovered that there is nothing quite like witnessing a cricket match in the Caribbean.

Tours for sports supporters are hardly a new concept, but they are a growing one. Travel operators are already reporting a record demand for flights; with 10,500 England supporters expected on the islands this winter, there could be a shortage of hotel heds. "We may even end up using boats in the harbour as floating hotels," warns John Snow, who was a member of the running his own sports travel business during the Second Test in Port of

Tours are planned around the five

nationals, with extra days allowed for lazing on the beach or trying water sports. Diehard fans can even opt for a ball-by-ball tour of the whole England itinerary. The cost? About £17,500 from Calypso Gold tours.

But like most package holidays, a cricket tour just wouldn't be the same without those little extras that are thrown in to keep the fans happy when they have spent the day watching England fielders chase Brian Lara's cover drives. Specialist tour operators offer a variety of action. ITC Sports enlists Radio 4 Test Match Special's Trevor Bailey, who will be arranging "informal games of golf". Fred Rumsey (himself a for-

mer player) has Godfrey Evans, David Capel and Peter Martin on the celebrity roster. In some cases you could find yourself playing beach cricket against local opposition, or even end up meeting the England team.

Probably the best reason for following an England cricket team around the Caribbean, with or without the help of a specialist tour company, is to sample the spirit of the islands from the boundary edge. Needless to say, the formalities of a county pavilion should be left behind with the embroidered blazer. "In Antigua you sit where you can, even if it means climbing a tree," recalls one veteran of the 1994 campaign.

As well as their resident steel bands and sound systems. West Indian cricket grounds are noted for their vociferous and highly entertaining fans. Carnival-crazy Trinidad has Blue Food, the infamous conch shell blower who no doubt inspired fast bowler Curtly Ambrose to destroy England's hopes singlehandedly in 1994. And when not running a stall in downtown St John's. Gravy dresses up in a nurse's uniform and helps rally the Antiguan crowd.

Away from the cricket, the tours are as varied as the islands themselves, Barbados, with its Little England feel and wide choice of water sports, drew a record 6,000 English supporters last time round. Antigua, with its reputed 365 beaches, is almost as

popular. But the rawest and least it to the Kaiteur Falls, the world's Guyana, even if it's a bit rickety," he says.

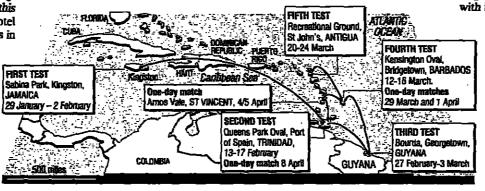
ducing quality West Indian cricketers Caribtours 0171-581 3517

(Clive Lloyd, Carl Hooper and, more recently, Shivnarine Chanderpaul), Guyana is the jungle home of the jaguar. Its gently decaying capital, built by Dutch colonialists, stands 6ft below sea level. Idyllic beaches, though, are definitely not part of the deal. "If you want to go and lie on a beach, you'll find yourself in 6in of mud," adds Snow.

Arguably the most attractive cricket ground in the world is the tiny Amos Vale, on the island of St Vincent. Two one-day matches will be played there in March. "It's practically on the beach," says Don Gooding, of Calypso Gold, whose trips feature rum punch receptions and the chance to talk cricket with Michael Holding and Sir Gary Sobers.

As a Bajan, he doubts whether England visited venue has to be Georgetown, can beat the likes of Lara, Ambrose and Guyana; the only Test venue in Walsh on their home soil. Optimistic Eng-South America. The 30 supporters land supporters are hoping, meanwhile, that on John Snow's trip to the third Test by the end of March they'll be returning in February will have the chance to home laden with Jamaican rum, sporting explore a vast rainforest, plus a vis- deep suntans and saying: "I was there".

highest single waterfall. "I quite like Cricketing tour operators include Calypso Gold 0181-977 9655; John Snow Travel 01293 440440; FTC Sports 01244 355390; Apart from consistently pro- Fred Rumsey/Kingfisher Sport 01722 331111;



GREEN CHANNEL

Africa is, of course, famous for its wildlife. But what about the people who live alongside it? In recent years many tribal peoples have found themselves pushed off their land so that foreign tourists on safari can come and see the protected wildlife, and, increasingly, they are living in poverty

However, a number of communities in Kenya are taking back control. More animals are now migrating outside the parks than previously, and local people have begun to market these areas to tourists. A Masai community 25km east of Amboseli National Park has set up

Kimana Wildlife Sanctuary - the first ever to be owned and run by the Masai. It contains lions, leopards, elephants and other game and has three tented camps and one tourist lodge. The Masai charge foreign businesses to run the camps and spend the revenue on new schools, dispensaries and cattle dips. Some money is also put aside to help those whose livestock may have been killed by wild animals, or who are particularly affected

during times of drought. Eselenkei Conservation Area, 17km north of Amboseli National Park, has also been established with local

communities in mind. The British tour operator Tropical Places, and the Masai people, have established the conservation area and have agreed to limit tourist numbers in the 200-sa-km area to 60 at one time. Tropical Places has been given exclusive rights to build a small lodge on condition that local workers are given preference, and that rent, bed-night and entrance fees for each visitor are paid to the Masai, Profits will be used for education and

Sue Wheat

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RED CHANNEL

The wise traveller will heed the advice of those who have gone before, particularly those who write guidebooks to unfamiliar destinations. But in some cases the danger is that you will be deterred from enjoying a country to the full if the risks are overstated. This, I found, was the case with the section on women travellers in the current edition of Lonely Planet's guide to Morocco.

agricultural support.

"Western (and especially blonde, fair-skinned) women will find they have constant male company at various times during their stay in Morocco," it said. "Harassment usually takes the comparatively harmless form of learing, sometimes being followed and occasionally being touched up."

Arriving in Marrakesh, I was therefore prepared for the sort of hassle I had experienced in northern India earlier this year. So at first I dressed and acted like a Victorian governess - long skirts, long sleeves, no eye contact - and was reluctant to wander the souks and streets by myself.

DAVID GOWER

RICHIE BENAUD

€aff 01244 355390

This, it turned out, was an alarmist attitude. During the week that I spent in the city and up in the mountains beyond, the men ! encountered were courteous and helpful and kept a polite distance.

Perhaps it's time for Lonely Planet to revise their doubtless well intentioned advice.

Harriet O'Brien



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Don't be a downhill fool

When was the last time you bought ski insurance? The chances are that it was before I April. In which case you could be in for a shock when you see this season's premiums, writes Stephen Wood

On April Fool's Day this year - a curiously appropriate date - the tax on most travel insurance increased by 15 per cent. At the same time new EU regulations gave UK skiers the right to go to the front of all skilift queues.

OK, I was lying about that last bit. But we all know - the statistics prove it - that nobody is interested in travel insurance; so I had to do something to keep your attention. Now that I have it, I promise that if you get to the end of this article you will have read a bizarre story, and learned how to save yourself at least a few pounds on this season's skiing.

When Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) went up in April, the basic rate increased from 2.5 to 4 per cent. But for some classes of insurance, including travel insurance sold by travel agents and tour operators, the tax leapt up to 17.5 per cent.

Why was this? In the insurance trade, they offer a remarkable explanation. In recent years, it has been a common practice for travel agents to offer discounts on skiing and other holidays; but to qualify for the discount, the customer also has to buy insurance from the travel agent. The agent loses some of the profit on the holiday in order to make a profit on the insurance - where the normal retail margin is 35 per cent. This technique echoes a similar one in electrical goods retailing, where discounts are linked to extended-warranty insurance.

The Government did not like what the electrical goods retailers were doing, because while electrical goods are subject to VAT, insurance is not. So to make sure it didn't lose out, it increased the IPT on extended warranties for domestic appliances to 17.5 per cent - exactly the rate of VAT. At the same time, and - say the insurers - for the same reason, IPT on insurance sold by tour operators and travel agents was also increased to 17.5 per cent.

VAT on holidays.

Whether the insurance trade's cock-up theory - that the government wrongly believed holidays were subject to VAT - is insurance potentially an even more expensive part of skiing holidays: a skier over 65 years old can buy a one-week package in North America for £360, but the insurance policy in this year's brochures would add £112 to that. With a 15 per cent hike in agents' and operators' IPT (from 2.5 per cent, before April 1, to 17.5 per cent), skiers have no choice but to buy their insurance elsewhere, from brokers and

That should be true; but it isn't. According to Sarah Joannides of Home and many trade clients (including Thomson's ski programme), its sales of policies through tour operators and travel agents have inearly days, of course, in the ski booking season; but Joannides says that when it comes to buying travel insurance people don't behave rationally because "they just don't want to think about it". They linger on the pleasurable part of choosing the holiday, she says, and then opt for convenience when

Michael Pettifer, the ski insurance expert at Hamilton Barr brokers, believes that "the travel insurance market is split into three parts. About 70 per cent of customers buy

It goes without saying that all skiers

need to steer their skis to change

direction and stay in control. This

movement sometimes looks and feels

like squashing a cigarette under your

foot in one movement. Other skiers

imagine that they have headlights

fitted to their knees. They visualise

shining the headlights in the direction

SKI TIPS

they want to travel.

The flaw with this reasoning? There is no from a travel agent or tour operator, and 10-15 per cent don't buy insurance at all they choose not to, forget, or mistakenly believe that they are adequately covered by a credit card or the E111 reciprocal medicalcorrect or not, the effect has been to make care arrangement for the EU. And that leaves only 15 per cent or so with banks, building societies and insurance brokers."

This year, that 15 per cent of customers stand to save up to £10 on their ski insurance. Among the big six tour operators, the brochure price for a week's insurance at a European ski resort averages £41, and most travel agents - not all, because the tax increase has led some to cut their commission - are charging a similar premium. Thanks to IPT, the differential between brochure rates and those a broker will charge has shot up: buy a policy Overseas, which provides insurance for through the insurance trade rather than the travel trade and it can cost as little

This puts a broker such as Hamilton creased by 10 per cent this year. These are Barr in a curious position. It will insure 100,000 skiers this season, about 20 per cent of the whole UK market; and since most of its policies are sold by travel agents the prices include the 17.5 per cent IPT which the agent has to pay. But you can get exactly the same policies at a lower price (starting from £31 instead of £35.40) if you buy through a broker, or direct from Hamilton Bar. It is, as Michael Pettifer, of Hamilton Barr, admits, "completely crazy".

It is always worth phoning around to get a keen price on ski insurance. And the more you do it, the more you realise how true that is - particularly for skiers more than 65 years old. For people of that age, the Thomson insurance policy for North America doubles: for a week's skiing, you would pay £112. But Hamilton Barr's prices double only at the age of 70: its top "Excel" policy still costs £57.20 for those in the 65-70 age group, even if they buy through a travel agent and pay 17.5 per cent tax. That's already a saving of almost £55. How much would it cost to buy direct? It's worth a few phone calls to find out.

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For more on sports and travel insurance, see page 7 of Your Money



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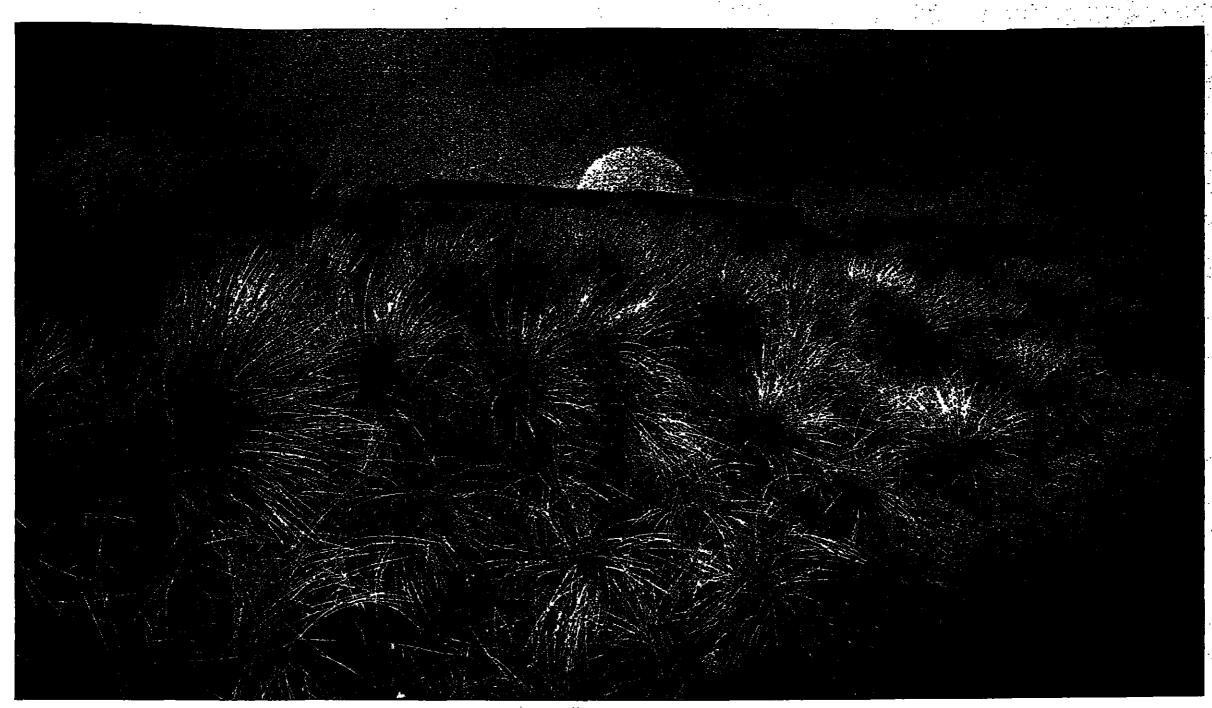
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A nuclear family outing

Give your kids a warm glow, and take a trip to Sizewell, writes Emma Haughton.

Despite all those reassuring ads on the TV, driving towards Sizewell nuclear power station still makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. Somehow it all looks so incongruous - the tangle of pylons miles around.

Sizewell's two magnox and one waterpowered reactors supply enough electricity for the whole of East Anglia, and its new owners, Magnox and Nuclear Electric, are cluding a full-scale exhibition explaining how watch men wandering around in overalls big white dome, which looked really nice. I nuclear reactors work, and various multi- and hard hats looking quite relaxed, and think it would all be more interesting when media shows, models and displays covering get a gull's-eye view of the 750,000 gallons I'm a lot older, though. It was a bit too grownthe history of electricity, principles of fission, of North Sea sucked into the plant every up for me: I'm not really bothered about atomic waste disposal and, more surprisingly. minute. You'll also get a close-up of that power stations and all that stuff.

It's all enlivened by a number of quirky exhibits, like the large and colourful display of antique glow-in-the-dusk radioactive glass ornaments - which would now be re-

garded as low-level nuclear waste - and plenty of hands-on activities for kids, including the chance to play with the Fantasia globe that arcs a blue stream of electricity towards boys - Joshua, 7, Flan, 4, and Zachary, 2 your hand when you touch the glass. You marching out across the mellow Suffolk can also conduct your own experiments with countryside, the looming apocalyptic white a Geiger counter, detecting the radioactivity dome that dominates the coastal skyline for of various everyday objects like an old luminous alarm clock and a granite pebble. No prizes for guessing that it's the granite which sends the counter into a frenzy of white noise.

how Sizewell cares for the environment. spooky giant golfball housing the water reactor, thoughtfully coated in self-cleaning Teflon so it will gleam across the East Anglian coastline for many a year to come.

> Emma Haughton, a freelance writer, and Joff Rees, househusband, took their three

Joshua: I liked the video quiz. You had just er in it. When I put my hand on it, the 10 minutes to complete it and it was very hard. I couldn't do it; nor could Mummy. I looked at a lot of things about electricity. I liked the electric Fantasia ball; if you put your hand on the back and looked through, you could see your skeleton. I had a go on the When you've exhausted the exhibits, you Geiger counter, which was fun, but I wasn't of little working models and videos, but it instance, to tell you that UK nuclear eleckeen to let you know it. The visitors' cen- can see Sizewell-B on a minibus tour. Once sure what it meant. On the bus we saw all tre has plenty to while away rainy hours, in- the bus clears the security compound, you the buildings in the power station and the few didn't work. It hardly fills you full of carbon emissions.

Flan: My favourite thing was the video game, but I didn't have a go because Daddy wanted to play it. We went on a bus and looked where the sea came in. I thought that if you fell in they would throw in a rubber ring to get you. The most fun was the cinema where we saw the big white dome being built. The cinema is on all the time, every day, even if there are no people there. There was also a ball with powelectricity followed my hand. It looked re-

Joff: Much of the exhibition was a bit over the kids' heads, but it compensated by being visually very stimulating. There were lots

I particularly enjoyed the minibus tour. It was like travelling around Switzerland

plant 8-9 degrees hotter, and cheerfully suggested that Sizewell beach is therefore the best place to swim.

Emma: It was all imaginatively done, very educational and quite fascinating, but after a while I began to feel rather brainwashed. Unlike a museum, where things are displayed for their own sake, everything in the visitors' centre seemed to be there to prove that nuclear power is clean, economical and absolutely safe. It was obvious that global warming is the best thing to happen to the nuclear industry since Facilities: there are toilets and a vending Ernest Rutherford first split a nitrogen atom area for refreshments. The 40-minute 80 years ago. No opportunity was lost, for

I felt there were a lot of highly questionable terms like "fail-safe" bandied Access: the visitors' centre is accessible by about, and the video, which assured you that wheelchair, and disabled visitors can be acon someone's Hornby railway set - every- nuclear energy has a "negligible environthing was so neat, clean and orderly. The mental impact", struck me as pure propa-

guide told us that the sea water leaves the ganda. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit, but., it could have done with more balance - perhaps an interactive game, "Can You Avoid; Meltdown?", or a video, "Great Nuclear... Accidents of Our Time". I'm sure Greenpeace would be happy to help.

> Sizewell visitors' centre (01728 642139) is next to the power station. From the A12, follow the signs to Leiston, then take the B1119. Opening times: daily 10am-4pm, except

Christmas and Boxing Day. Admission: free.

mini-bus tours leave at regular intervals. There are also 11/2-hour walking tours of was a bit disconcerting to find that quite a tricity saves an annual 13 million tonnes of Sizewell A Magnox station, but these are not available to the under-fives. There is a nature conservation area outside.

commodated on the mini-bus, but not the

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Once you've sized up Sizewell, head for the Manor House at Walberswick (01502 723243). At this neat, family-run restaurant and tea shop, toasted tea cakes (90p), sandwiches (from £2)

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with potatoes and onions. Starters include a home-made soup, and grilled banana with Stilton and cream.

In the afternoon there are also high teas - scrambled eggs

(£3.95), cheese on and sausages with chips. Facilities toast with bacon (£3.95), grilled include a high-chair kippers. Small and a changing shelf portions are available the Ladies. on request, plus a few extras for children

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The killing field

Now's the time to arm yourself to the teeth and commit carnage in the garden. lliustration by Sally Kindberg.

Having arrived in a place that grew little but elder and nettle, I've been obsessed since we've been here with planting, planting, planting. Show me a bare bit of earth and I would ram something in it.

enough now for the things we've planted to have done a lot of growing. For a time I persuaded myself that the bank was a romantic jungle. Now I am forced to the far less pleasant conclusion that it's a mess. Something has to go, and if it's not me it has to be them - the plants that have grown too big for their situation or have not delivered what I was hoping for.

So I have been flailing around like Vlad the Impaler, uprooting, burning, creating mayhem. I always supposed I was a pacifist. It's quite frightening to discover this latent ability to deal death and destruction all round.

Usually I find myself apologising to plants I dig up and explaining why they've got to go. Not now. "Look," I said to 'Agnes', the rugosa rose on the bank. "You've had 15 years to get your act together. I was promised big, double, amber-yellow flowers, heavily scented. I was , promised bushy, dense, clean foliage. And what have I had? Long, scraggy growths. No flowers. Horrid rust-ridden leaves. Enough already."

Usually, too, I think it must be my fault rather than the plant's if it's not doing well. For years I've had this notion that everything that goes wrong in the garden is down to me. In general, that is better than supposing problems always to be someone's else's fault, but suddenly I am tired of guilt. I've done all I can for this rose: pruned it, mulched it tenderly with the best cow dung that Dorset can provide, kept it free from bindweed. It's been a one-way relationship and I've had enough. It's gone. Burnt. Destroyed.

It's a heady feeling. Now I'm looking far more critically at plants on the bank with the suspicion that space - pure, calm. open, airy space - would be better, in one or two other places, than the existing muddle. It's so dense, that growth on the bank now, so congested, that not enough plants come into the spotlight.

The process started with the ceanothus that we tore out from the front of the bank would have caught your eye and felt unto make more room for small plants and comfortable:

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bulbs. But getting rid of the ceanothus also brought back into prominence the aralia too. Left to itself it would make a big, behind it. I had always intended the aralia, a lovely Aralia elata 'Variegata', to be the key plant in this particular patch. The ceanothus (C thyrsiflorus var repens) was supposed to sprawl low in front of it. Instead, it reared up and up and completely dominated everything around it.

The slow-growing aralia couldn't fight back fast enough. In winter, its framework But we've been in our house long is reduced to its few strange, stubby, upright stems. But the ceanothus was evergreen and grew so fast that when the time came for the aralia's fabulous great pinnate leaves to unfold in April, there was nowhere for them to go. Now it is breathing easy, the 3ft leaves balanced out horizontally like the branches of a cedar.

Making space, taking things out, need not be as wholesale as it has been with the 'Agnes' rose and the ceanothus. Sometimes cutting out branches is enough. Lifting the canopy of trees by taking out one or two of the lowest branches is a surprisingly effective way of gaining more gardening room. This is

ANNA **PAVORD**

what I need to do with the evergreen Portuguese laurel under which a big Decaisnea fargesii is growing.

I wouldn't want to be without the laurel entirely. It stands on the boundary between us and our neighbour and provides useful cover. It also shelters our garden from the prevailing south-westerly winds. But it is a dense tree, and the decaisnea tends to lean out from under it and wave its great leaves (pinnate leaves about 3ft long) over the lawn. Then the grass If we take out a few of the laurel's

lowest branches so that it doesn't sit quite so heavily on the decaisnea's head, the decaisnea itself will feel that it can grow up into the vacuum that has been created, rather than reaching out over the lawn. The laurel branches could have been just cut back, rather than taken away entirely, but I don't think the effect would have been good. The unnatural truncation shortly coming to them. I'm off now with

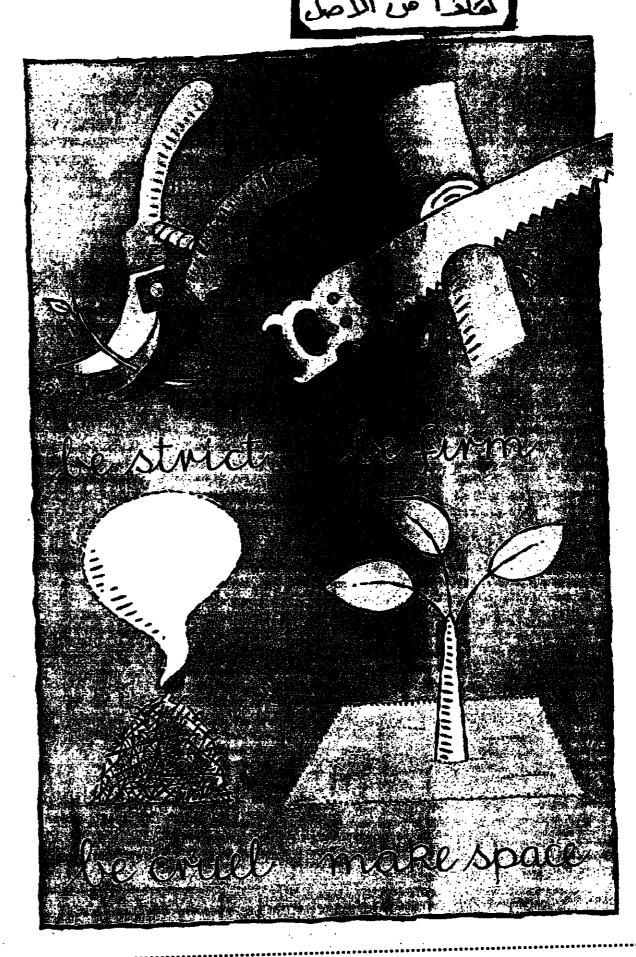
The decaisnes itself needs cutting back, multi-stemmed shrub at least 15ft tall and wide. But like many multi-stemmed shrubs (cotoneaster, philadelphus, etc) it can easily be kept at a more manageable size if you regularly take out one or two old stems each year.

I won't do that now. Even in the white heat of my Impaler mode, I recognise that this is too good a shrub to risk losing. Pruning always kicks a plant into top gear. But you don't want new growth produced at a time when it may be frosted. It will be safer to attack the decaisnes after it has flowered, in May next year. And if I cut it now, I would lose many of the seed pods that are one of the reasons for growing the shrub. They are weird, the size and shape of sausages, but navy blue.

The cotoneaster is different. It seeded itself into the bank and because there was nothing much else there at the time, I left it. It is Cotoneaster simonsii, with small, neat leaves and oval fruit, turning now to bright orange-red. It comes from Sikkim and Bhutan and makes generally upright growth, about 8ft tall. It's a shrub you can't find any fault with, but, at the same time, not one that ever stops you in your tracks, the way the aralia and the decaisnea do.

W.) Bean, author of the monumental, four-volume Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, says C simonsii is "well able to take care of itself". Good. I needn't feel sorry for it when the saw starts to bite. Two of the upright growths have taken a decided turn towards the horizontal, consequently getting in the way of a pale pink fuchsia (F magellanica), which is flowering its head off at the moment. I have only been waiting for harvest festival to start rampaging round the cotoneaster.
The branches will help decorate the

Removing big things, such as trees and shrubs, has the most immediate impact, of course, but sorting out the perennial understorey is no less important. Two things have happened to the detriment of the display on the bank. I have been far too easy-going about self-seeders such as alchemilla, brunnera and origanum, and I have let some plants, such as Iris sibirica 'Heavenly Blue', go on expanding until the clumps are at least 5ft across. No. I put that badly. No guilt. These plants deserve everything that is my favourite spade, to smash them to



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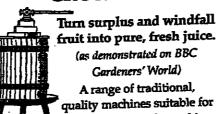
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Nutty but nice

Good news for red squirrels and other nut lovers: the moist, succulent Kentish cob is making a comeback, as Malcolm Smith discovers.

Darell Thompson-Schwab is a self-confessed nut freak. Each year, around this time, he takes delivery of up to 35 bags - each weighing half-a-hundredweight of rather special hazelmus, delivered by lorry to his home near Carlisle from distant Tonbridge in Kent.

Mr Thompson-Schwab, his family and the red squirrels to which he feeds most of the nuts, are part of a culinary and ecological renaissance, because the Kentish cobnut - a superior, cultivated form of hazelnut grown since Tudor times in small plantations known as plats - is undergoing a revival in its fortunes. Victorians went nuts for a Kent cob. Harvested in autumn, they are renowned for retaining their freshness and were traditionally eaten before a meal, or afterwards with a glass of port.

But the Kent cob has long been in decline. Dr Meg Game, an ecologist and member of the Kentish Cobnuts Association, reckons that there were at least are a botanist's paradise. The 7.000 acres of plats at the turn old shade-bearing trees provide of the century. "Only around the Kentish Weald, but some in Gloucestershire, Worcesterin area," she says. Plats have



in a nutshell: Kentish cobnuts have been grown in England since Tudor times, and are renowned for retaining their freshness

been grubbed up to make way for more profitable fruit grow-

ing - strawberries, for instance. Many of the remaining plats perfect conditions for bluethe rare goldilocks buttercup, depending on the underlying

cream-coloured plant which is parasitic on hazel roots.

But Meg Game is quick to disabuse anyone who assumes that the thousands of acres of cobs grown in Kent a century ago were as rich in ground 250 acres survive, mainly in bells, wood sorrel, orchids, even colour. "Each plat was then thoroughly dug in winter and hoed once or twice during the shire and Somerset. Most of soil. One Kentish plat hosts the summer to reduce weeds and to seems, were intent on getting as toothwort, a rather dull-looking. Smelly concoctions of manure, from the plantations as well as month for one person cutting hazels we have all become used

fish waste were spread under the trees."

ters"; these rural vandals, it

they often broke branches.

Nurturing cobnuts is a Was this vile dressing applied labour of love rather than a acre and sell 60 or 70 per cent as a fertiliser, or was it put there money-spinner. Tim Chambers, of them wholesale to Covent to discourage poor peasants a fruit farmer at Otham near from shinning up the trees? In Maidstone, has six acres of his 1812 poster the Duke of century-old Kent cobs. All the 90p or fl a pound. Norfolk dubbed them "nut- trees are hand-pruned to keep them about 6ft high.

rags, shoddy [hop leftovers] or from wild hazels. In their haste, them, then another fortnight to eating, imported from Turkey, France, Italy and the dearing up," says Mr Chambers. "We aim to harvest a tonne per US. Both sorts retail at about £L50 a pound. So why should you go auts Garden and other markets." for a Kent cob? According

This autumn, growers are getting to John Cannon, chairman of the But he also sells direct to a Cobnuts Associnumber of large supermarkets, ation, it's all to "We prune from December some of which have them on do with being them are less than seven acres largest British population of kill the larvae of the nut weevil. many hazelnuts as they could, onwards; it takes around a their shelves alongside the fresh-tasting,

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and flavoursome. "We're looking at the quality, natural food end of the market, with a product superior to the much drier. imported hazelnut," he says.

John Cannon also talks about improved libido, if not in his human consumers, then in the red squirrels fed with the nuts. Though Darell Thompson-Schwab can't confirm that his squirrels are more randy, in his tests with imported hazels and Kent cobs, 10 out of 10 red squirrels preferred the cobs.

Kent cobs have some official support, too. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' countryside stewardship scheme pays £8 a tree to bring derelict cobnuts back into shape, plus £100; per acre for 10 years after planting Kent County Council will pay 30 per cent of the costs of establishing a new plat if it is near existing ones. As a result of the renaissance in interest, helped perhaps by this financial support, several fruit growers are establishing cobnut plats.

Today's nutters, as they savour the fresh white kernels of Kentish cobs, are not only preserving a culinary delicacy; they are reviving a Tudor tradition - as well as conserving a rare landscape feature.

To contact the Kent Cobnut Assoc, write to the Secretary, Clukkers House, Crouch

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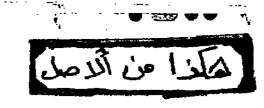
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Arm-to-beak combat with a capercaillie This weekend, more

than 90 countries are taking part in World Birdwatch 1997. But will the birds co-operate, or strike back?

 $\mathcal{D}_{1,\frac{n-2}{2}},$

Not often is one physically assaulted by a bird. Farmyard cockerels do sometimes spar up at humans, it is true, but for a wild bird to launch an attack is rare indeed. Yet earlier this year I found myself locked in single combat with a rogue capercaillie.

We were driving through a pine forest when my guide let fall that we had just entered the territory of a male caper, which, crazed by sex, was driving all corners off his beat. The moment we stopped, out he strutted, down a bank, and wham! - beak-first into the front of the Land Rover. A colossal grouse, more than 2ft tall, he was nearly black in the body, with hints of brown, bottle

green and 1 white. but 8 scarred and bloodied about the head from fighting. With his bony beak pointed straight upwards. he was uttering extraordinary. metallic, clicking noises.

When I got out and tried to chat him up, he came straight for me, pecking at my legs, and when I put the toe of one boot on his breast, to push him away, he let fly an incredibly swift double clap with his wings - babbom! - striking furiously on either side of my right knee.

So consumed with aggression was he that no amount of shooing could drive him off. I feit sure that if I had seized him by the neck and whirled him bard, an expert at the RSPB,

round, he would have come many addicts develop an inback into the attack the instant be regained his feet. In the end we reboarded our Land Rover, nudged him out of the way and drove off.

I mention the incident now because today and tomorrow World Birdwatch 1997 - the biggest twitchers' turn-out in history - is taking place. The event had its origins in Birdwatch UK, during the Eighties; the idea spread to Europe, and then in 1993 went global. This year more than 90 countries are taking part, including China, Bolivia and Yemon, and it is hoped that in Britain alone at least 50,000 fans will be out there seeing what they can

The whole jamboree is coordinated by Birdlife International, of which the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is the UK partner, and the aim of this "global celebration", besides giving innocent pleasure, is to raise awareness of the need for conservation work.

For me, the idea of joining an organised group to watch birds is somehow unsat-

terest in birds as children, and carry the hobby on into adulthood. "First they see a challenge in identifying as many species as possible, by looks or voice. They keep lists, and get into friendly rivalry with others about the number they've seen in a year." Anyone who claims a

term of abuse. All dedicated twitchers, it

bird which he has not seen,

and is found to be fabricating

evidence, becomes known as

DUFF HART-DAVIS

seems, set themselves targets: 300 species a year for the really serious, 350 for those on the verge of fanaticism. As a warning to all, Mr Harbard cites the example of Lee Evans, the Great Twitcher of Luton, who deserted his wife

wary of shrikes over since, as a 12-year-old, I told a friend of the gamekeeper that I had heard a peculiar cry in the valley below our house. "Ah," said Jack when I described it. "That was a lesser shrike, boy. Rare old bird that. Takes a bit of seeing.

You want to get down there arter 'ee." For months I searched in vain for the clusive caller and, only by chance, a "stringer" - the ultimate after much further ribbing about my lack of success, did I discover that the creature making the noise was a don-

key. Perhaps it was having my leg pulled so comprehensively . that confirmed my bent as a solitary bird-watcher. Over this weekend I shall certainly be on the

lookout, but alone. The other day, in the Highlands, I had the luck

I myself have always been tell that for a mile or more her wings never moved, but she changed course slightly by dipping the side-feathers of her tail, first one way, then the other - a majestic display of gliding that I shall never for-

That, and the mad caper, have given me bird memories to last into my dotage.

For information on the nearest event of World Birdwatch, call the RSPB hotline 01273 299399



NATURE WATCH

Bird and animal droppings, though superficially unattractive, are a rewarding subject for study, because they betray the presence of creatures rarely on view. White splashes on a stile or gatepost, for instance, are probably those of a tawny owl or a little owl, the whiteness being dissolved calcium from the bones of rodents which the nocturnal predators have caught and eaten.

Foxes often leave their calling-cards on molehills or stumps, and at this time of year the droppings are often dark red or purple - not a sign that Reynard has intestinal problems, but a reflection of his liking for fruit. Blackberries and elderberries go down well.

Experts can tell those of bucks and does apart, and some people claim that in dense forests dung-counts are the most accurate means of assessing the

Duff Hart-Davies

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would rather go out on my own and see what I can find. Nevertheless, I recognise that many twitchers become so fanatical that they do not mind if they are part of an army, provided they can set eye or lens

isfactory. I

on their quarry. According to Chris Har-

on the first night of their honeymoon to set off in pursuit of a rare shrike, and wrecked his marriage by driving 80,000 miles a year, at a cost of £10,000, in furtherance of his obsession.

golden eagle

soar away off rocks below me and out over the glen. Through binoculars I could

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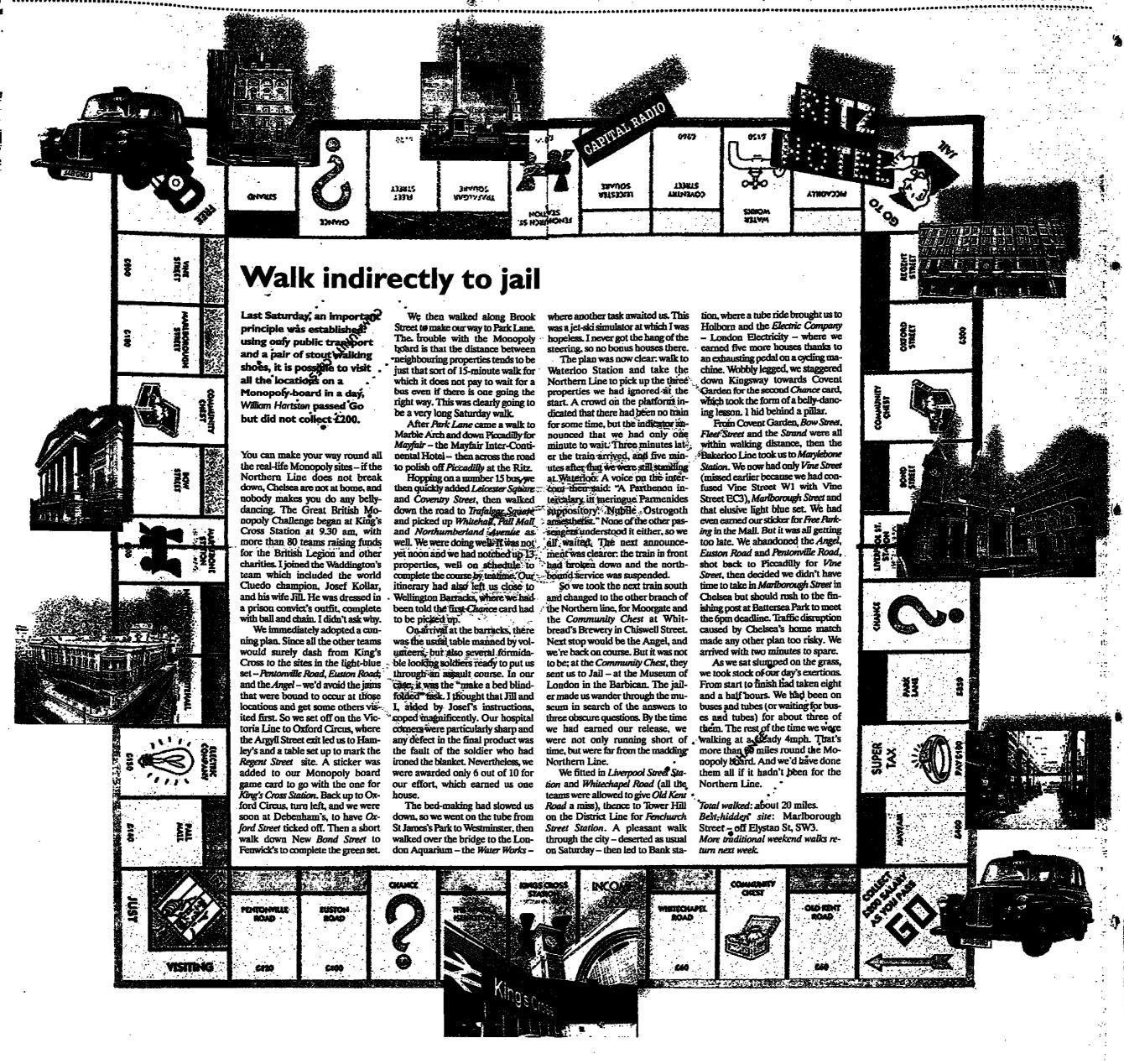
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GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

PANDORA MELLY

Ken Morse, 53, Rostrum Cameraman.

When I was little, I used to play with film projectors. I'd buy them, make them work. and then a friend and I set up a cinema in a garage, which was the start of where I am now.

I actually ran the projector at the Bristol Ritz when I was 12, so you can imagine I was very young then. That was my game and they couldn't keep me away. It was a proper cinema, and I had keys to get in and everything. I worked there for about ten years.

Four o'clock from school, I was straight in, opening up, getting ready. We did two shows on weekdays. and on Saturday mornings there was the

matinec. Then we'd open again in the afternoon an go right through to eleven. On my days off, I went to visit other cinemas, just to keep

In those days there were Mods and Rockers, and if the film

was a bit boringthey'd start up their own bit of trouble or set fire to the seats.

We'd have to stop the film, get the lights on and call the police. You did wonder if they'd come in to watch a film or to fight. Being only 12 years old. I wasn't allowed to

watch X-films, so I'd

sneak in late at night and put them on myself. I got caught once. I'd left the door open, and two policemen carn in. I was up in the balcony watching a Hammer Horror film -

one of the Dracula ones where they put the stake in and everything. I had the music up quite loud, and I was absolutely petrified when two gaunt figures suddenly loomer out of the darkness.

I didn't get into trouble; they just wanted to know what I was doing there.

Ken Morse may be seen on the credits of almost any BBC documentary under the heading: Rostrum Camera. He probably has more TV credits than any other

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Baker's mixture (5)
- Facetious (7) Foreigner (5)
- 10 Dress (4)
- ters (8)
 12 With no great enthusi-
- asm (4-9)
- 15 Having polite manners
- (4-4) 17 Six deliveries (4) 20 Decree (5)
- 21 Rearrangement of letters
- 22 NE river (4) 23 Clergyman (5)

- 11 Lines spoken by charac-

DOWN

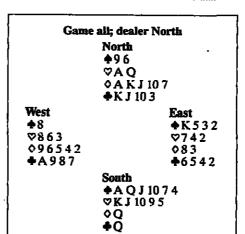
- Measure of sound (7) Unattractive (4) Storm-lantern (9, 4) Yob (4)
 - Pamphlet (7) Employing (5) Half-open (4)
 - Companion of Snow White (6) Travelling salesman (6)
 - Regular patron (7)
 Dissolution of marriage

 - Church members not in Holy Orders (5)
 18 European capital (4) 19 Difficult (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Mustered, 5 Cede (Mustard seed), 9 Vault, 10 Vehicle, 11 Re-searcals, 14 Carrier piecon, 16 Compatriot, 20 Pompeii, 21 Tonga, 22 Note, 23 Aggrieve, DOWN: 1 Maverick, 2 Southern, 3 Extra, 4 Exvesdropping, 6 Each, 70 Emil

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



South ended in the wrong slam on this deal and failed to recover. Mind you, in order to do so he would have needed considerable foresight despite the winning play being one that could never cost and might conceivably gain..

This was the (unopposed) bidding: $1 \diamondsuit - 1 \spadesuit$; $2 \spadesuit - 2 \heartsuit$; $3NT - 5 \heartsuit$; $5 \spadesuit - 6 \spadesuit$. Clearly somebody should have bid Six No-trumps but perhaps South was keen to claim his 100 for

honours. West led the ace of clubs against Six Spades and switched to a heart. Declarer won on the table and led \$9 to the 3, 4 and 8. It was hard to foresee the consequences but South had already made his mistake. From this point, he was unable to reduce his trumps sufficiently to match East's length and still get the lead to dummy. At the end he had to lose a trick to East's king of spades.

South could have made his slam if he had unblocked with ♠7 under dummy's nine on the first round of trumps. He follows with the six from durnmy and the difference is that this holds the trick, leaving the lead on the table. Next he ruffs a club, returns to VA, and ruffs another club. Finally he gets back to dummy by overtaking Q. South now has the same number of trumps as East and simply leads winners from dummy until East chooses to ruff.

Hobbyist quote of the week

"My family consider me eccentric for spending a disproportionate time with my wolves. I don't consider myself eccentric." Roger Palmer, who gave up a job in the City to devote his life to the care

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

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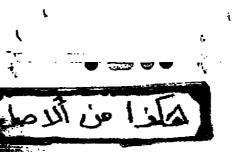
How did you learn to play backgammon? On a holiday in Greece or Turkey to pass those idle hours on the beach? On a night shift as a bored computer operator with not enough to do? Taught by your spouse/partner to wean you away from chess or bridge? In a pub in the iate Seventies as the backgammon craze took hold of the nation, and you didn't want to feel left out?

I was taught by my girlfriend, now wife. Gill in her desperate attempt to stop me playing chess. Little did she know! What all the above have in common is that very few of us were taught as children. Yet childhood is precisely when when we should learn to play, and if we. cannot change our own education, then we can at least

pass on our knowledge to our children. Backgammon, like chess, bridge and other games, is something children can grasp quite easily at an early age. As an adult I learnt the game by studying whatever: literature was available - minimal, in the Seventies and playing for countless hours with like-minded individuals. You could call it trial and error. The learning curve was long and arduous as I had to sift the good from the bad and then remember the good - no mean feat for an adult, even one of only 25 summers.

Children, however, don't learn the same way and if well taught at an early age the learning curve is much steeper. They also have the huge benefit of not learning too many bad habits, if well taught initially. I have recently started to teach my daughter Katherine. 9, to play. We started with non-contact racing positions to give her the feel for moving the men, and then moved on to the normal game, played without the doubling cube. She will make a move and then ask my advice. I will try to point her in the right direction if she has made a bad mistake, and explain the basic concepts behind my reasoning. I have been amazed at the speed of her learning and her ability to retain knowledge. Once she has mastered more of the basics I will gradually introduce the concept of doubling. When I have not been around she has been practising against the computer program Jellyfish on its most basic level.

I have recently noticed that a number of friends' children have started to play. This must be good for the game and I wouldn't be surprised to see a resurgence of the game over the next few years. All we need is tournament organisers to include a children's section and we could have a British World Champion in the not too distant future. So please - let the children play.



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The qualifications for a course on sculpting are a willingness to have fun Tand to experiment. There's no such thing as right or wrong, as Sally Stoples found out from a group of chiselling,

chipping students.

Maggie Ward, dressed up in apron, goggles and mask, is hacking furiously at a concrete block. So far it bears little resemblance to the delicate clay model of a classical girl's head that she made last week. But tutor who is very encouraging, these are early days in the sculpture course, and Maggie's section of people I would neventhusiasm with her hammer and chisel is promising.

"Aphrodite, here I come," she giggles as she tackles her block with gusto. "I must say that if you've had a row at home, this is good therapy." Maggie decided to sign up for the sculpture course now that the two youngest of her three children have started university. "My husband has just retired and so I thought I would do something for me. I had absolutely no experience of sculpture at all. I'd done dressmaking and pattern-cutting at college but this is a completely new experience. And it's

female figure out of a potato. I seems to have lost her bust ..."

Fellow student Neil Peters, 39, works as a literary agent and director of a publishing compromoting the talents of playwrights he decided to look at his Own potential

"I had done a bit of sculpthing tactile, and something that was more than just a hobby and I have met a whole crosser normally meet in my work."

and women on this particular a reversal of the situation 20 further education course, at Kensington and Chelsea Col- in a different way. I think they lege in London. It is called Sculpture Materials and Techniques, runs from 10pm until to experiment more," he added. 4pm every Tuesday for 30 weeks, and can take students up be working with steel, plaster, to A-level standard. But there wire, wood and mixed media. is no particular pressure to achieve. The tutor allows most of his pupils to go at their own pace to build up a portfolio, and to cover conventional apthey are taught basic techniques in a variety of materials.

Both Neil and Maggie are anxious to point out that every-

"Look at my homework. We No one is going to dunigrate had to carve something out of those first, self-conscious and fruit or vegetables and I did this sometimes embarrassing attempts to fashion something rekept her in the fridge but she sembling a head out of a bandful of clay.

On the day of my visit, while some students chatted constantly others worked quietly in pany, and after years spent a corner away from the group. either intent on a piece of work or, perhaps, finding the experience of sculpture a therapeutic one. At the introductory ture in art at school and knew session students are asked to I liked it. I wanted to do some- draw sketches of heads and then begin to mould them with the clay. Next they are taught class. What I found here was a to carve and reproduce the clay model out of a concrete breeze-block.

The tutor, Tim Beswick, said that sculpture courses now at-There are about 15 men tract more women than men years ago. "Women approach it don't have the same expectations as men and are prepared

> "During the course we will which can mean anything from string and brown paper to plastic bottles and teddy bears. I try proaches to sculpting, and to introduce contemporary issues.

year they will work indepen-"The first term is really about banging, sawing, sticking, one is made to feel comfortable. cutting, and getting to grips with

It may be something like the

We start off having fun

they will do a piece of sculpture can't draw. I won't be any on a theme they have chosen. good.' People gradually gain confidence, because this is a beauty of snow or the sadness safe, non-critical environment of Christmas. By the end of the to develop and take risks. No one's going to say: 'You're not

good enough for this class." Jo lnnes, a copper-haired 27- can be creative and do what you and trying to break down any year-old with a model-like fig- really enjoy.

the sculptor's tools. Next term fears. A common comment is 'I ure, is quick to confirm this approach. "People are so afraid of rejection, but whatever you produce Tim will always find the germ of an idea. I do a jewellervmaking course, where you have to learn techniques and there is a right and a wrong. Here you

"I have travelled a great deal - I spent a lot of time in Africa - and have all sorts of ideas in my head. Trying to realise them in sculpture is like going on a journey. It's exciting, and it's what life should be like.

Where to learn The 'Sculpture, Materials and your local authority.

Techniques' course is one of several offered by Kensington and Chelsea College in London (0171-573 3600). It costs £145 plus materials, and there are reductions for the unemployed.

For advice on other sculpture classes, contact the Adult and Further Education department of



Shape of things to come: the beginners' sculpture class at Kensington and Chelsea college

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Trial by tiger traps, stone walls and water jumps

Dressage contests are nerve-racking. Especially if you are a novice. Anno Dedhar, rider No 13. steels herself for the Porlock Vale hunter trials.

Sitting on a wobbly wooden the Edwardian hunting-lodge ing riding Reg (nine years old, bench, gazing at a field that con-that Helen and Kim Youd took 16 hands and a tendency to get tained one woman holding a over two years ago has 25 acres faster and faster and faster) over silipboard and another riding a running right down the pebbly norse round in circles. I tried to beach, and you can see from the to be an Anna trap as well. But remember when I had last felt Somerset coast across to Wales. so far there had been no injuries so nervous that my stomach was Behind the house the woods rise in my throat and my nails were almost vertically up to Exmoor digging into my palms.

ride in the hunter trial at Porlock Even the weather had turned in Vale House, and I was No 13, our favour; storms earlier in the second to last, so there was too much suspense for my liking. The the ground too dangerous for troubled by nerves had eaten a intermediate class was first, but cross-country riding, but two dry I had decided that since I had never entered a competition like ed that out. this before I was a novice - and anyway, there was a very scary 3ft mixed bunch - Sainsbury's buy-intermediate courses - and rec-6in drop fence for the interme- ers, a tour guide, a film designer, diates which I did not much care a dietician - but we all had two pointed out by a sharp-eyed

enough for me. As well as straightforward seems and ditches, coffins, banks, steps, started with. stone walls and a water jump, spread over six fields.

The scene was beautiful:

I was waiting for my turn to to blow the cobwebs away. week had threatened to make enced enough not to be too days and a bit of sun had sort- walked the course. Our chief in-

The competitors were a things in common: a love of rid-It was a small event, only 14 ing and a determination to get jump. Shaun took the interme-

the weekend and using the sta- the Friday and the Saturday ble horses. But it was real morning we were taken over the jumps again and again until we had a little more confidence drops there were tiger traps, and perhaps style - than we

There had been a few falls including mine, on about my the tiger trap, which turned out more serious than bruises - and lighter wallets, since there is a - where a fast ride is guaranteed tradition that any guest who falls off has to buy cream cakes for the seven stable staff.

On Saturday, those experiquick lunch and then we had structor, Shaun Rigby, had devised the novice and tified his design, after it was guest that there was no No 17 riders, all staying at the botel for round the course. Throughout diates and his assistant Rachel



Getting the bit between the teeth at Porlock Vale Photograph: Christopher Jones

us the best line to take for each jump and pointing out potential fore launching over a drop. problems such as long stretch-

RE-CYCLED

took the three novices, showing horses might pick up speed, and against the clock, timed from would have to be checked be- the moment our hand touched

One field - known as the and close, till we jumped out

the gate which we had to open

tricky metal catch had been worof these took action and bribed deafened by concentration that Shaun with a large bar of chocolate to let us use a rope cept triy horse and the jumps. I loop dropped over the gatepost had one nasty moment after the instead of the catch.

2pm, and Victoria, the first rid- I had no refusals and didn't lose er, due at 2.15pm, hurried back to the house to have a stiff brandy before putting on her and could breathe again. boots, hat, body protector and number bib.

Each rider had to wait for the previous one to complete one person riding, one warmgetting their horse from the stables. The timetable allowed seven minutes for each round.

Finally it was time for me to go and get Yogi (16 years, 16 hands). We warmed up with a trot, a canter and a couple of jumps, and then it was time to

Although it was a competition, everyone really urged each dressage riding. rider to succeed at each jump. There had been applause for als, see the 'Horse & Hound' fixes between jumps where the farmyard - was to be ridden into the next field. The gate's everyone so far and I knew it tures lists.

would be no different for me, rying quite a few people, but one but I was so blinkered and I was oblivious to everything exwater jump when I could not re-And then suddenly it was member where to go next, but too much time over the gate. I finished, after a clear round -

I felt enormous satisfaction, and was very proud of the first prize rosette I was given in the evening. Yet the sense of the course, so there would be achievement came from having competed, despite a real attack ing up in the first field and one of nerves, and completed the course. Thank you, Yogi.

Anna Dedhar took part in a hunter trial organised by Porlock Vale House, Porlock Weir, Somerset TA24 8NY (01643 862338). Events in 1998 include a one-day event and midsummer party in June, and hunter trials in September. Porlock Vale House was the birthplace of Olympic

For details of other hunter tri-

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Taking a spin around a spinner of news

it's strange what happens to those who ride bikes. They meet

the oddest of people, find themselves in the quirkiest of situations. Peter Reynolds takes off his cycle clips and shares some of those: moments

This morning it was Peter Mandelson who popped up in front of me on my cycle ride through London.

It's a regular, enjoyable and meditative experience. Strangely, it frequently brings me into close proximity with London's great and good. Maybe it's only in those few minutes each day that I am allowed to move in their elevated circles.

I think I irritated Mr Maning Westbourne Grove - me, a rather dishevelled, unshaven figure unwashed but enjoying the morning sum and there was teet a lot. The bystander is ob- essential to the presentation of needs people who have the confound us all.

another, in similar condition served without observing and but on foot in baggy shorts, not looking too happy.

We hesitated for each other. I adopted a motorists attitude and he waited whilst I crossed the Grove. I acknowledged him with a friendly "Mr Mandelson".

delight of cycling is to be modelson should sympathise with and even more? this happy, chameleon condi-

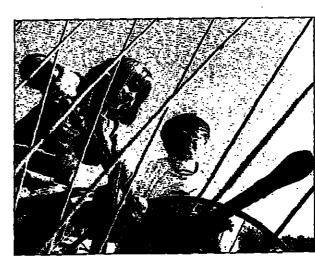
as I pedalled on. to admire a man who, whilst pored his blind spot and chosen himself as his client. He delson a little. Pedalling south cannot see the way that he is down Ledbury Rd, approach- seen, even thought that is the Mandelson occupies? essence of the skill he sells.

> In the moment when one passes by on a bike, one can de-

by the time they do, you are gone. Mr Mandelson looks strained, and well he might. The management of perception is easier when everything is potential and the reality of government does not interfere. He has succeeded without "Good morning", he compromise in his goal, obreplied, the irritation evident taining the all-pervasive, dythat I had made him wait. The namic, "without portfolio" role which is the zenith of his art. torist one minute, pedestrian But should he have gone on to the next - as it suits. Mr Man- take on this Millennium job

The skills that are required tion. The thought amused me of a spin doctor are - the analogy must be made - of those of It would be impossible not a spin bowler: skilful in a gentlemanly way, deceptive withnot the original, must be the in the rules, defensive and most notable "spin doctor" of conservative in approach, makall. Yet, I fear that he has com- ing way for the fast bowler to mitted the cardinal sin, ig- come through but seizing any opportunity that is presented. Are these the same skills that are needed for the new role Mr

> To be a spin doctor, a manager of communication, is an honourable profession, a skill



any message in a world where ability to manage communitruth is subject to endless dis- cation like this. But do we need tortion. I am unsure that it is them running the country? what is needed to be part of government. Encouragement is also ap-

that unguarded moment, not know? Or - is this the Pelooked as if he needed it. Mr ter Principle? I feel pretty managing New Labour behind the scenes is not genthrough the media maze and erally the man who is expert up into government. The country front but, perhaps, he will

So I pay my respects yet I question his present role. Perhaps I underestimate him and propriate for someone who, in he has other skills which we do Mandleson takes full credit for sure that the man who is expert

actly was your thinking in re-

placing Smith with Jones?", for

example, is a popular form of

words which hints at acumen in

the questioner while inviting

the manager to impress with

the acuteness of his own tacti-

Often successful. But it is

important to sound another

cautionary note here. Only last

week, I heard Harry Redknapp

being asked to explain what had

made the difference between

his West Ham side playing so

badly against Arsenal and then

so well against Liverpool four

him Brian, since that is his

name - was rebuked. "Well,"

said Redknapp with a sour

The questioner - let us call

cal vision.

days later.

Post-match tension and the managerial art of putting the press in their place



ROWBOTTOM ON A FOOTBALL to laugh.
PHENOMENON Why of

I made a joke once. It was a Doncaster Rovers, is deemed acing understatement. "I had discussions usually stray into Cockney grin, "I read your armust have thought you were couple of years ago, after a by Her Majesty's Press to be a few words with the lads at the technical realm. "What expenditure the technical realm." What expenditure the property of the property match between Coventry and Southampton where the referee realised he had blown the final whistle too early and called the players back for an extra couple of minutes.

Southampton's manager subsequently suggested the referee should get a new watch. "It makes a change from new glasses," I quipped. One or two colleagues were good enough

Why did those Beano-type words come out of my mouth? Because, I now realise, I was in a post-match press confer-

This phenomenon - without which no football match in the country, be it England versus Italy or Rochdale versus

officially over - involves unwritten rules. And Humour, Appropriate Use Of, forms an portant category.

The guiding principle here is tradition - say nothing that has not been tried and tested many times before.

Thus references to the blindness or incompetence of referees, or to balls coming down with snow on them, or to the likelihood of a few beers being consumed later in the day,

But would-be wags should remember that, generally speaking, the managers do the jokes. Not that they are any bet-

The managerial comic tradition relies heavily on men-

half-time", accompanied by a grim smile - that sort of thing always goes down well with assembled scribes.

It is feature of such gatherings that common-or-garden phrases repeated by managers bring forth disproportionate merriment among listeners. Ron Atkinson, that master of the rehearsed quip, has had hacks convulsed in merriment with observations such as: "They've got two chances of beating us: slim and none."

Managerial ascription of bias to the referee is normally prefaced with the phrase: "I'm not going to comment on the referee, but..." This is only unintentionally funny.

At some point, post-match

playing David Unsworth too wide on the left."

Other managers are less humane in their response to ionrnalists deemed to have stepped beyond their bounds. "Who did you play for?" is a brutal variant which I once heard used to - well, brutal effect by Kenny Dalglish.

The Newcastle manager is in a Premiership of his own when it comes to putting the Press in their place. His stopper phrase, which can be deployed against any form of offensive, is: "You saw it. You

For the reporter, the words "You must have thought" are indispensable for introducing almost any topic, as in "You

must have thought they were never going to score". If the manager responds with either a yes or a no, hey

presto, the quote. "I thought we

were never going to score..." For the rookie reporter, owever, there are hidden perils at these ritualistic gatherings. After a Saturday match, there will be two rounds of questioning. Quotes for the Sunday paper will flow from the formal press conference. Follow-up quotes and stories for the Monday paper writers are usually gathered behind a closed door any door will do, so long as it is guarded by a stony-faced

man in a club blazer. Manager and Mondays slip away together like lovers with a secret assignation. These post post-match lines are jealously guarded, particularly by the tabloid men for white fresh quotes are essential.

Once, innocently straying into a huddle of scribiting-macs. I was rounded upon by the mac closest to mit. "You Sunday?" he growled "I'm both," I said. "These are for Monday only," he said, turning back to the business in hand.

Thinking about all this reminds me of Ron Atlanson's old press conference line about his hyperactive midfielder Remi Moses. "We call him dogshit," said big Ron beamingly, "because he gets every-

God, that was so funny Well it seemed funny at the

Divided countries with a single obsession

The first cricket tour this decade by India to Pakistan ended on Thursday. It was business as usual, with stones being thrown at the visiting fielders, but the fact they play at all is a sporting miracle.

If the mood that hovers over matches between India and Pakistan is unique in cricket, it is not surprising. On Tuesday the two sides met in a one-day international in Karachi and India stole an improbable victory from the jaws of defeat. On Thursday

openers Ijaz Shahid Afridi smashed the Indian attack all over the ground to win an em-

phatic victory. artillery shells killed 18 Indian teams played in Bradford, rival civilians in the town of Kargil in Kashmir, and the Indian retaliation was claimed by Islamabad to have killed 20 civilians in Pakistan. That they manage to play cricket at all is little short while last month in Toronto the of miraculous.

The relationship between the two countries is perennially bitter, bloody and fractious. Since gaining independence 50 years ago they have fought three full-blown wars and the struggle over Kashmir grinds on year after year. Even their clocks are at war, India's being half an hour behind Pakistan's so they do not have to celebrate Independence (which was declared at mid-

night) on the same day. Cricket is the obsessional game of both countries, completely overshadowing all others (with the partial and arguable exception of hockey) and many of the fixtures down

the years have been scarred by

The series that finished on Thursday was the first time in eight years that India have toured Pakistan. In that time Pakistan have twice cancelled tours of India, once in protest at the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque, once after the pitch at Bombay was dug up.

In the game in Karachi on Tuesday, Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian captain, took his side off the field after stones were thrown. Batsmen who treat the home bowling too contemptuously have been pelted, players have been manhandled. During India's last tour of Pakistan in 1989, spectators invaded the they met again in Lahore and the pitch to force the abandonment of a game

which Pakistan BY PETER looked like losing, and the Indian players ran POPHAM for their lives. Meetings in third countries

have had their In the same week Pakistani share of fun as well. When the fans fought and Pakistanis burned the Indian flag. During the 1992 World Cup in Australia, spectators were arrested for chanting political slogans, Pakistan batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq did a Cantona, charging up into the stand with his bat to assault a man who had been taunting him through a megaphone (it was not a political or religious taunt, though, he had

been calling him a potato). The expectation, then, is that there will be fireworks - so the only time I have seen the teams playing here, at Hyderabad in June, I was taken aback by the mild, studious, goodhumoured atmosphere. Indians do not drink much and, in Hyderabad, which is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, a dry state, they don't drink at all,



Anil Kumble, of India, appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Pakistan's Aamir Sohail during last year's World Cup quarter-final in Bangalore. India won by 39 runs on a day when misbehaviour by the crowd of 55,000 was limited to orange throwing, which only briefly halted the game Photograph: Allsport

one cause of noise and com-

Indians go to matches in family groups with far more women spectators, in both countries, than you ever see in England, many wearing burkas. The vast majority of the crowd, are a million miles from being chauvinistic yobs. The Hyder-

The vast transfer of population in 1947 means many Pakistanis have family roots in India, and vice-versa. Religion may divide them (though India filling in scorecards, following has some 40 million Muslims), the game with close attention, but they share centuries of history and culture.

Competition is passionate except illegally. That removes abad match was more like a but for the mass of spectators bonding between the players,"

game between neighbouring it has a gentle, familial undervillages than warring countries. side to it. Chauvinism, bitterness and war are the prerogatives of tion that took place with parti- the politicians and a small minority of hoodlums - but

> latter to provoke trouble. According to Indian journalists who have followed their side abroad, this kith-and-kin mood extends to the players. "Off the field there's a lot of

they are usually enough of the

Pakistanis and Indians from the north who share the same language. I'd say the relation- be extended further. Australia ship between the players is the and Pakistan, despite having best in cricket at the moment.

The commonest comparison for the Indo-Pak rivalry is with that between England and Australia, and, even though cumstances, tend to shake their the latter countries are not heads in despair.

says one, "especially between actually murdering each other's citizens on a daily basis, there is a lot in it. The comparison can small populations, usually win. "Of course, on the field, it's And after routs like Thursday's one-day international - Pakistan scored 219 for the loss of one wicket in 26.2 overs - Indians, like the English in similar cir-

SPORT ON THE INTERNET world on the web

For the ultimate armchair adventurer, there is a web site devoted to the Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race. There are actually people who pay to go on trips like this, but now, for virtually free, you can follow the progress of all 10 competitors on a daily

The leader board shows which boat is in the lead (currently the Norwegian entry, Innovation Kvaerner), its position: (just past the Cape Verde Islands) and the relative positions of the other vachts.

I'm a trifle worried that Chessie Racing seems to be amphibious as its plotted path takes it right over the middle of one of the islands. This could prove a useful attribute for the

odd short-cut later on. Some aspects of the site are still under construction, including an active race viewer, a virtual yacht-tacing game and a chronicle which promi video and audio links.

There are diagrams of each leg with the tactics likely to be employed, information on the race rules, the scoring system, handicaps and ratings and details of the W60 yachts, which are being sailed by all the competitors. There are also pieces on all the teams and crews.

Several of the com petitors have their own site. America's Challenge's site has a brief history of the previous six Whitbread races, diagrams and technical specifications of Heir boat, pen-pictures of all its crew plus the facility, should you wish, to e-mail any of them.

The Dutch boat Brunel Sunergy have a site of which they're getting philosophical - probably because they're almost

Weather buffs can also have a good time with links to various meteorological sites. The Erro-pean Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecas is for those who can't ge enough of Michael Fish and friends, with charts fire six days ahead for Northern and Sor hemispheres.

If anyone is going quicker they must have picked up a jet engine along the way



GRANT DALTON

The skipper of Merit Cup in the Whitbread Round the World Race describes how he is trying to evade the slow power drain of the Doldrums.

: 5

Doldrums but right now we are going faster than at any time since we left Southampton. If anyone is going any quicker they must have picked up a jet engine along the way.

With just over a third of the distance completed to Cape Town it is far too early to indulge in any feeling of confidence, and I have never been lucky going through the Doldrums. They never deal an even hand. I wouldn't mind a change of luck.

But it is nice to know that Paul Cayard, third in EF Language and doing a whole lot better than many predicted, thinks that we and the man we are chasing, Knut Frostad in Kvaemer, have spotted the longest leg.

Just ahead lies the lottery of the right place to cross the Doldrums.

He thinks we may sneak through and then pull right away and I hope he is right. We are now in that what is called the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone. The buffers which move around and behave like a concertina, first spreading then contracting north-south, are this weekend's test of nerves.

What has struck us hard is that, if this were any of the previous races, where the winner was decided on the accumulated time taken to sail the whole way round, then a couple of the much-fancied boats could be in deep trouble, even though there is still a long way to go on this, the first and

Chris Dickson started as race favourite but under the old system he could be looking at kissing it goodbye right now, along with Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match. Even Lawrie So, that may mean we are Smith's Silk Cut crew would going quite quickly or it may all have to be deeply worried. But, instead, there is a points

you are a second behind or a day, the loss remains the same. That may be better for the whole race, but there is also the thought that this leg accounts for just less than a quarter of the whole distance but only one eighth of the points.

system for each leg, so whether

Another thing to think about is that, so far, perhaps it is the two best bits of navigation that has decided the leaders. Our up-beat reading of that south then we will keep bump-

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is that Kvaerner is going well but we have been able to match her. Where we may trade a mile or two, many others have consistently fallen back.

be down to luck with the wind and so far we have not had the sort of deep downwind running conditions which we like and had in the Fastnet race in August. Most of the spinnaker work has been quite tight, which is not best for us. And we are profiting from what I think were serious blunders by a couple of navigators. You

have to get west, guys. Still, it is the Doldrums which could throw the curved ball. If the ITCZ is moving

ing into it and the rest will come piling up behind us. But if it shape, though there are the moves north we will be through and away. At least we have some

relatively clean clothes again. On day 12 we ceremonially changed everything and threw the old shorts and tee-shirts. suitably weighted of course, over the side. They weren't the sort of things you would want to keep on board. They could jump up and grab you.

What has not improved is the food. In earlier races you took as much fresh food as possible before breaking into the freezedried stuff. Now eating is hard yakka all the way. We have enough for 33 days and that was supposed to be too much. Now

downs, as well as the ups, when we see if we have lost any miles at the six-hourly position updates we receive for the whole fleet. They know it is still early days. There is no risk of complacency as we follow the routine of sleep, eat and sail. It's just business. We are winning on one hand, but only holding on with the other. I don't like having a boat nearly 30 miles ahead of me.

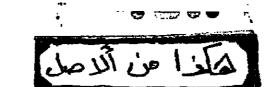
IY 50 MILES ADEACO OF THE WORLD RACE (First leg. 7,350 miles, Southerspton to Cape Rown) Latest positions: 1 innovation kusemer (Nor) K Frozzad 4,802 miles to finish;: 2 Merk Cup (Monsco) G Detton +28 miles: 3 EF Language (Swa) P Ceyard +77; 4 Chessis Recing (US) G Collins +138; 5 Sik Cut (38) L Smith +143; 6 Americals Challenge (US) N Barth +282; 7 Rishba (US) C Dictson +282; 8 Swedish Match (Swe) G Koratz +285; 9 Brunsl Surergy (Neth) H Bousschotie +473; 10 EF Education (Swe) C Guillou +532.

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vantage point available to follow the Ryder Cup. The more adventurous took to the trees, while some of those who found their line of sight obstructed attempted to view the action through periscopes (below). A privileged few, however, including the players' wives (bottom right), enjoyed the luxury of watching from inside the ropes. Away from the course, accommodation was in such short supply that some fans had to take to the water. One special deal offered accommodation on a luxury yacht (below left, viewed from the course), dinner and entrance to Valderrama. The cost? A mere £2,000 per day.



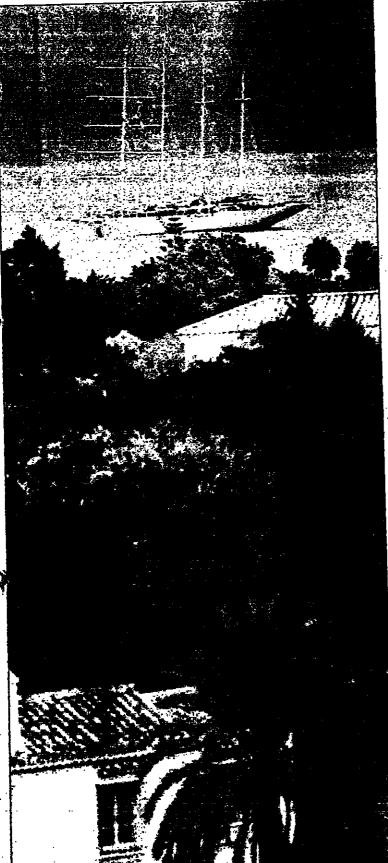




PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ASHDOWN







Valderrama: veni, vidi, vici

The intimate atmosphere of last weekend's Ryder Cup at Valderrama – where a respectful but excited gallery rubbed shoulders with golf's richest and best from Europe and the United States – contributed to a special event. Andy Farrell mingled with a crowd worthy of the occasion.

It was almost like being Seve Ballesteros, being a spectator at Valderrama. OK, you didn't get to zip around the course on his Thrust-style buggy. You couldn't get inside the ropes to pull a cinb out of a bag and quietly (?!) suggest to a caddie this was the implement he should hand to his player.

But, like Seve, you didn't get any sleep. Like Seve, you got soaking wet. And, like Seve, you all but played every shot and went through every possible emotion before Europe secured the narrowest of victories. They came from all over Europe, mainly from Britain and Ireland but also from Germany and Scandinavia — in their Viking helmets — and from Italy and France, and even some from other parts of Spain.

From the resorts of Marbella and Torremolinos, they rose at 4am to travel to the western end of the Costa del Sol. Strictly against orders, they smuggled in step ladders and stole crates from the catering tents to see the action.

There were more Americans than ever before for a Ryder Cup on this side of the Atlantic, although you would not have known it on the first two days. Only on Sunday, with the Stars and Stripes comeback operational, did they reach their usual volubility.

Since the excesses of Kiawah Island, with the American players whipping up a partisan gallery, decorum has been re-established. It started four years ago at The Belfry, where some Americans had cause to complain on previous occasions, and especially at Oak Hill in '95. Despite the fact that spectators can get closer to the action than in any other sport, and the closeness of the contest, there were no major incidents at Valderrama.

"The atmosphere was incredible, the tension was amazing," said a newcomer to the event. "The whole thing went far beyond my expectations. There was a complete feeling of unity for the Europeans. It didn't matter who it was, where they were from, everyone ganged up behind them.

wyou can get so close to the players when you are by the ropes. You could shout well done' or 'good luck' and they would acknowledge the support. Even Seve, rushing around on his buggy, stopped to give autographs. But best of all was the respect everyone had for the players and the occasion. The silence at each relevant moment was electrifying."

at each relevant moment was electrolying.

The visiting captain, Tom Kite, had no complaints.

"I cannot say enough about the galleries," he said.

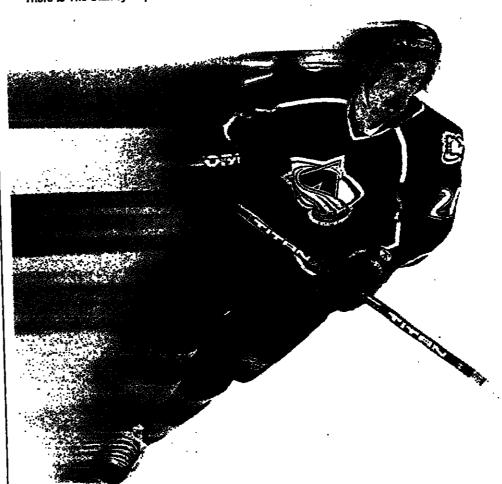
"They were enthusiastic but at the same time very fair. They were quiet when my players were playing, they were courteous of all my players. They cheered louder for the Europeans, but we expected that. In two years' time it will be the other way round."

Beyond commitment. Beyond skill. Beyond teeth-jarring
body-checks you pay for in cash. Beyond speed-blur, the puck

body-checks you pay for in cash. Beyond speed-blur, the puck a land mine at your feet, primed to explode. Beyond desire.

Beyond belief

"There is The Stanley Cup".







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unity-something, juggling careers and idds, seeks similar male, for red wine and conversable. 222525

MAVERICK FEMALE ...warrs independent male, to share the big adventure with, I am 39, tail, dark, stim, with cool extenor and warm interfor. We can taik about music, ant & walk for miles, London. \$2206

SEEKING
SOUTH EAST MALE
Tail, fun-toving, sim temale, 41,
511, enjoys golf, outdoor pur-suits. Seeks similar male, for friendship/romance, \$2530

COUNTRY LOVER

COUNTRY LOVER

Relaxed, attractive, countryloving lady, 44, leading gulet
life with dog, seeks tallish, educated, not average, solvent
male, up to 50, avaitable for
marriage. Kent area, call again,
disaster with previous messames TREASE RED HEAD ROMANCE Aubum-haired female, 45, slim, fit, interested in the arts, the-

climbing, can anyone help, seeks affectionate, outgoing, seventurous male, for friendship and romanos. \$2527
THE WORLD IS OUR TOY Attractive, affectionate, warm, professional female, fun-loving & caring, seeks that speciel, reliable, honeac, professional male, 40-56, for companion-OUT LOOKING!

DREAMING & WISHING Happy, slim, dark-hared, attractive female, 50, enjoys cinema, countryside, dining out, seeks honest, sincere, likeminded male, 45-65, for romance and Irlendship, Hampshire area, 17:2529 FIRST CALLER

teresting, attractive woman, onders if there is a man with guts, life and imagination, who would like to meet. No under RED-HEADED NURSE

nurse, mid-40s, divorced, seeks attractive, N/S man, sim-

CUDDLY FEMALE ed male, with GSOH, for caring friendship. Anywhere.

BUBBLY REDHEAD Bubbly redhead, entoys wind ous, honest, kvely male, 50-55. No drunks need apply! ble relationship. STE London.

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FUN-LOVING FUTURE?
Yourful, slim, stractive, prolessional lernale, late 40s, seeks optimistic, intelligent make, for good conversation, laughter, travel and hopefully long-term relationship. AtroCaribbean beckground welcome Herts arse. \$72528

HAVE CAKE, WANT ICING!
Slim, presentable, lively, bright lentale, \$00th Waters, seeks fit make, 47-52 with wrestorn and integrity, for an intriguing life of romance and merriment.

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LOVE AND LAUGHTER
Slim, attractive, intalligent,

Slim, attractive, intelligent, Carrierbury widow, 51. seeks one special man, to be at least, a very dear irland 1272557

FREE on 0800 716 318.

ADVENTUROUS
TRAVELLER
Female, 49, GSOH, young outlook, own business, likes
adventurous travel, loves nock
music and Mozart, Buddhism,
cars, chema, theatre, walking,
countryeide, swimming, seeks
successful, whole male, mid
40s, for friendship/relationship,
272515

Flormantic, genuine, trustworthy, considerate female, music (folk/classical/popular). The-

try, costal remains the cost of the cost o

REQUIRED:
BRIGHTON BLOKE
Down-to-earth, professional,
stylish woman, long dark/pale
green, art graduate, enjoys
socialising, travel, dancing,
conversation, dirang out, seeks
similar, confident, friendly man,
35-50, for furnitiendship/maybe JAZZ UP YOUR LIFE Petite, attractive, ihely lady, warm, loving and sincere, into country walks, skaing, wine, the and dance, loves music and jiving, seeks like-minded man of similar age, 45-55. nore. \$2213
IDEAS ABOVE MY STATION?
Fair, fit, caim, happy, optimistic, 50s female, seeks solvent, good-natured, intelligent male, 50-70, for pleasant, platonic pursuits. Tale and fortune no detiment. Shefiteld area. 272224 man of similar age, 45-55.
Surriey based. #2562
LOVE IS OUR CLASSROOM
Happy, sibractive, sim, european female, young 50s.
enjoys the arts and outdoor
curatitis seeks talk mellect. pursuits, seeks tali, well-edu-cated. fit, handsome male, with integrity, 47-60, for romance and company. \$225.33 LIVELY ENERGETIC 54

UNBREAK MY HEART UNBHEAK MY HEART Intaligent, well-travelled, East Indian female, 5'. Trinidad ori-gin, great cook, seeks kind, caring, considerate, white male, 45-60, for triendship, LIVELY ENEMGETIC 54
Warm, surrount ternale, 52°, bionde/blue, enjoys country pubs, occasional drink, reading, music and most things, seeks tall, muscular male, for maybe more. 252322 STYLISH & FUR friendship/relationship. Attractive, stylish, brunette female, 43, N/S, no ties, VGSOH, seeks attractive, professional male, 35-19, no ties. Umbra area. 1372504 INDEPENDENT LADY

INDEPENDENT LADY Intelligent, eachee, caring fun, enjoys good food, whee, music, walking, countryside, seeks quick-wheted mele companion, GSOH, 55-65, West London area, can travel. \$2516

LANCASHIRE LASS Young-at-heart, wildowed lady, outgoing personality, 55, 57. blonde-blue, likes gardening, pets, travel, walking, holdays, dining out, seeks talish male, smilar age/interests, for frendship/relationship \$2536

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Flormantic, genuine, trustwor-

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Chamming and very attractive lady, seeks professional, successful male, 45+, with whom champagne and laughter London/South East please

40. Single/widowed/annulled. 12 2 BECOME 1
Interesting, kind-hearted, loving female, seeks romants., Christian male, 20+, to share life and joy. Loves music/aris/ poetry and takes the road less travelled. 12 2299 LOVELY LADY

BRIGHT YOUNG THING
Attractive, siim, intelligent, independent lemale, 25, seels tall, charming, successful male, 30-40, for all things gorgeous. Landon/Essex. \$2234
KIND GENUINE MALE?
Tall, siender, intendity, professional temale, seels, sall THE PHONE CALL THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE cus, serioer, intendly, protes-sional ternale, seeks tall, humorous, settled male, 27-34, for a foving relationship. London area. 13:2301 YES Synanish 51-2376 SLEEPLESS IN BEDFORD? SLECPLESS IN BEDVIND?
Attractive, levely, professional
lemale, seeks tall, attractive,
live-minded mate soul mate,
25-35, to share fun times, dnih,
tequita, collect sea shells.
Wouldt hist be great? London
and Home Counties. 27:2311
BLONDE BOMBSHELL
Attractive athlets minessional Atractive, athletic, professional female, seeks sutravagant male. 5'10', to explore life. 13'2372

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ATTRACTIVE SPARKLER

ATHACTIVE SPARKLER
Outgoing, smain, shorer, protessional lemaile, 5°5°, enloys
keeping fd, drining out, theathe,
music, driving, socialising,
seeks successful, genutine, shrgle, tail, attractive male, late
40s-50, N/S, GSOH, Edinburgh
ama, 472-106

Area. 202106 COUNTRY TEA AND CHAT

photography, horse racing, antiques, old buildings/vehi-

andoes. On busingsvering.
ites, thes animals, cycling, books, the country, seeks, horse-loving male, 45-55, for mendship. \$22105

WARM...

WARM...
..lemale, 38, reals, considerate, dog-to-ing male, for outings & triendship, etc. 122112

AM I RNSAME?
Withy, professional, Asian female, but with serious side.
35, based in Herts, seeks attractive, cosmopolitan male, with good interpersonal skills.

Am I asking for too much? 122083

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Sometime specific Outgoing, caring lemale, 21, 5'4", tikes reading, walking, music, cooking, seeks hand-some, implifyerin, professional male, 28-30, for Inendship & relationship, 182103

IN PURSUIT OF WONDER

By PURSUIT OF WONDEH
Female postgraduate, full of
Me and laughter, 25, enjoys art
and escapism, lavel, books,
movies, seeks day-dreaming
soul to dip into bleas and life
with integrity, intelligence and
imagination. 221636

A.U. THERE?

R.U. THERE? Professional, attractive, caring, with, Scottish-Aslan female, 31, seeks attractive, profes-sonal male, 2945, with vaned interests, to share winning-din-

tun, mendship, relationship. London area. 272115

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ship and romance. 222307 Attractive, petite, outgoing female, great smile, likes keeping lit, travelling, seeks tall, attractive male, 45-50, GSOH, for thendship, long-term rela-

tionship. 222363 COUNTRY LOVER Relaxed, attractive, country-loving ternale, 44, leading quiet life, has custody of dog, seeks tallish, educated, not average, solvent male, up to 50, avail-22323

SPIRITUALLY-MINDED loves Me, travel, dancing, med-lation, personal growth. Irish music, having lun, seeks self-aware, arcculate man. 35-48 Warwickshire, M40 or any RED-HEADED NURSE Sim, divorced, attractive female, mtd-40s, seeks mtelli-gent male, N/S, similar age, with warmth, wit and percep-

life, with a tall, kind, caring gen-ternan, aged 45-60 172291

male soul mate, to share the everyday and the exceptional. Please call mel 182343

Attractive, sirm, blonde female, 49, seeks intelligent, attractive, sirm, successful male, 55ish.

with warmth, wit and percep-tion, for friendship/more, NW Kent area, \$22351 MAKE ME LAUGH to share books, music, meals, walks and the finer things in

est, carno maie, 36-44, for friendship/relationship. Northamplonshire/Beds area. 222303 CULTURED AFRICAN LADY y, black, West African graduate, 41, 56, likes during out, socialising, business/professional 40+. 57+. N/S. without

A WOMAN FOR KEEPS Attactive, feminine, slim, adventurous, professional, indian lady, Kuala Lumpur origins, divorced with 2 children, vaned interests, wicked SOH, seeks partner, for life. Are there any Australians or commental men out there? Leicestershire

ATTRACTIVE SPARKLER
Outgoing, professional temale,
59°, enjoys keeping fit, dirling
out, theatre, music and socialising, seeks successful, attracthe male, late 40s-50, N/S, with

LIBRA LADY London Jewish woman, curvy but stender, enthusiastic, accomplished stylich, opinionated, seeks astrologically compauble, divorced, Jewish man, LADY IN RED

longing to love, laugh, play and share again, with laff, professonal/graduale, 50-60, with a helpikle in his eye. Herts/ Beds/Cambs. 22317 CARDIFF LADY

Cardiff, tall, stim, genuine lady, GSCH, seeks intelligent, caring male, 55+, 510°+, for companionship travel. #2356 HELLOI Independent, intelligent female,

mid-40s, seeks kind, thoughtful male, to add something extra special, to her tile. North Yorkshire area 272314 Attractive lemale, 30-some-thing, distillusioned with 30-

WARM & AFFECTIONATE Attractive lamale, 30s, seeks Am male, 36-45, with GSOH.

SEEKING WOMEN

AN ENCHANTING SONG Romantic, divorced, very III male, GSOH, trying to reach the surface again, seeks cul-Altractive, fit. kind, easygoing, Asian, professional male, 38, 6', enjoys laughing, alternative therapy, theatre, travel, seeks stim/medium-built, warm

172551 LOOK NO FURTHER Easygoing, attractive, profes-sional male, 40, 6', stim build, storal male, 40, 6, stm build, enjoys cycling, photography, keeping ši, music, seeks attractive, stm female, for new experiences and sharmo, £2548
MISCHIEVOUS DEVIL.
Unibetevably eligible, dark, cute, stightly funky male, 26, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 23-30, for romance.
London area, £2554.

London area. TSC554

YOUNG ARAB MALE
Trainee pilot, 25, 5177. seeks
NS., tun-loving ternale, lor
Irlandship:relationship. London

TALL AND SLIM YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS

STEADY SEEKCR
Sincers, foyal, romantic, intelligent, good-tocking, withy male, 28, 6°, analoys: theather, dishing out, welking, chiema, conversation, seeks skinker (smale, 25-50, no tee, N/S, for furr, friend-ship/relationship. MRGands 50, no ties, N/S, for fun, friendship/resizionship, Middands
area, will lavel \$2555
SOUL MATE
Professional, essen male, 28,
seeks fun-towing, mature,
romantic female, single mums
welcome for irlandship/relationship, London area, \$72512
UNIVERSAL EXPLOSION?
SE based graduate, 30, seeks
intelligent, attractive, sensitive
emale, to hold my hand white I
well for the big bang, \$22553
NORTH EAST SONGWIFTER
Creative graduate, 30, into
songwriting, music, gigs, jazz
clubs, poetry, current affairs,
intelligent convertation, cutiling
out, seeks female kindred spirIt, for Irlandship, tun and inspiation, Ceveland/N E area.

ration. Cleveland'N E area. 172:540

EASYGOING HIGH FLYER Professional male. 29, 6'1'. long black/brown, medium build, enloys current affairs, history, travel, mghts out/in, socialising, seeks caring, chalty, professional, intelligent ternale. 25-35, similar interests. GSOH, for friendshup/possible relationship. 772:508 ests. GSOH, for friendshup/pos-sible relationship. 12:2508

TALL, DARK & HANDSOME
Professional, Asian male. 29, enjoys cheme, reading, current atlairs, travel, music, cooking, poing out, seeks intelligent female, similar age/hobbles, for triendship/relationship. London.

ADVENTUROUS MERMAID

inendship. 272518

SOMETHMES SHY
Shy male. 30, enjoys cinema,
Lv. reading, seeking lemale,
shy, short, dark hair, for long
term relationship. 272533

LOVE AND HAPPINESS
Sporty, highly aducated, N/S
male. 31, 673. enjoys keeping
fit, socialising, good food,
seeks affectionate companion,
for Irlendship, maybe more.
London. 272511

FREE-SPIRITED
Tall, sim, professional, sporty

Tall, sâm, professional, sporty male, 31, 61, athletic build, male, 31. 611, athretic build, likes sport clubs, pubs. music, films, reading, seeks like-mud-ed lamale, 25-33, for friend-ship/relationship. South Coasi based, \$2554

НАРРУ СНАРРУ HAPPY CHAPPY
Outgoing, professional, socable, academic male, 32, 6°2',
emjoys, countryside, travelling,
dry sense of humour, cinema,
seeks easygoing, intelligent
female, 25°35, for companionship. West Country area.
TP2521 CALLING MISS MUSCLESI

Silm, creative, thoughtful male, 33, more Jarvis Cocker than Amie, seeks muscular female body-builder, with warm, withy personality, for romance. Manchesler area. 272559 BRISTOL BEAU Adventurous, greganous male, 34, interested in Ireland, organ-ic farming. San Francisco and

any age, for thendship/relation-ship. 272542 THE FORMULAS OF LOVE THE FORMULAS OF LOVE
Attractive, loving, professional
male, fight skinned, 34, scienlist, seeks computer-literate
female, similar age, for computations and devotions, 272523
THY ANYTHING ONCE THY ANYTHING ONCE.

Silm, attractive, sporty male,
35. easypoing, smoker, seeks,
smilar female, 25-35, GSOH
essential, for irlendship and
relationship, \$2538

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE
Good-looking graduate, sol.

Good-looking graduate, solvent, 35, 510°, N/S, GSOH, warm, considerate, enjoys independent travel abroad, mountaineering, cycling, run-ning, walking, seeks similar female, 25-38, Herts/N London

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BOHEMIAN BIOLOGIST Shy, sensitive, sophisticated country boy, young 36, 5"11", v attractive, into love, affection. attractive, into tove, aneadon, whe, walks, travel, yoga, languages, seeks lalish, intelligent, independent, siren/soorpic, 25-40, any area/country. Oxford based. \$72556

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ie, for romence/ AROMATIC L'ANOUR Quiet male, 50, 59" enjoys cin-ens, sport, curies, seeks out-going temale, with talkative per-sonality, for intends/to/relationship. Central London. 172532 SEEKS INTELLIGENT LIFE Attractive, ft. Intelligent, sof-vent, mals, 51, into arts,

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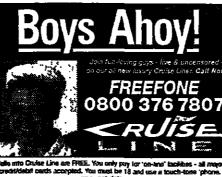
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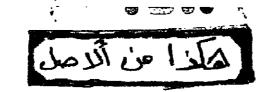
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LIVE CHAT

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My Emma and Guest arrive at the top table

When My Emma lines up for Europe's richest horse-race, tomorrow's Prix de l'Arc de riomphe, it will be the culmination of a twoyear plan and a long-held dream for one of Newmarket's less celebrated trainers, Rae Guest.

Rae Guest heard My Emma had fallen over while he was away in Ireland. The words flip and fiddlesticks did not go through his mind. "But it was something beginning with eff." he said.

With a formight to go before the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and near the culmination of a two-year strategy this was not the greatest news the Newmarket trainer could have received. He preturned immediately for a bedside vigil. "As soon as I heard she'd slipped up the first thing I wanted to do was get back," he said. "It wasn't as if I could do anything, but I had to get back.

"It was the biggest blow that I, the owner and everyone in the yard could get. We've been planning this for two years. It wasn't as if anyone had died, but it was the next worst thing for all of us."

It has not been quite time for dark clothes and a passage from Auden, however. A patched-up My Emma has again been sighted on the training grounds at Headquarters this week and tomorrow she will demonstrate her abilities in the Bois de

Boulogne. If good guys do indeed finish last, the filly will be tailed off, though the form book does not promote that likelihood. Rae Guest is the most

understated of Newmarket's many trainers. In fact it is hard to believe he is a trainer at all sometimes. He exudes neither an air of great supremacy nor she would one day win an Arc. a suggestion that his job is what keeps the globe spinning on its axis. But he does know what he is talking about.

In racing, there are enough Guests to fill a marquee and Rae comes from a line that includes his brother, Richard, winner of a Champion Hurdle and uncles Nelson, a trainer. and Joe. The latter is remembered for the impressions he left at jumping racetracks, both on his audiences and in the terrain. They called him either the Iron

Man or the India Rubber Man. Rae Guest himself was a rider of some aplomb both here and in Denmark, compiling 600 career winners, the most notable of them as an aide-decamp of Luca Cumani. He was at the controls on Tolomeo when the colt was third to Teenoso and Sadler's Wells in a King George, and he was the gallops tutor of good horses such as Bairn and Half A Year. Nothing though prepared him for the exhilaration of morning manoeuvres on My Emma. "if you've worked horses all your life you should know when one is a little bit better than the rest," he said. "My Emma is the best horse I've been on. Even Tolomeo and horses like that

would struggle to beat her." By the time he left the weighing room for the last time Guest had purchased Chestnut Tree Stables, which is hidden in Newmarket's version of the Lost Valley. At the bottom of the yard you can count 25 horses, but the only one that counts is My Emma. Guest understood that she was an uncommonly useful filly soon after she arrived in his keeping but it took

some time to prove it. As a three-year-old My Emma developed an internal nasal obstacle, while a similar protuberance on the outside lent her the impression of an equine Kari Malden. "She got this cyst, what they call a polyp, on her nose." Guest said. "That had to come off."

By the time the nurses had



waved My Emma farewell the Classics had come and gone. The filly won ber maiden at Newmarket, after which Guest said Those within earshot waited for an orderly with a butterfly net to Tuesday when My Emma take him to a secure institution.

There was not so much sniggering though when My Emma was sent on a foray to France for the Prix Vermeille. She won and the historical precedents of All Along, Ivanjica and Allez France - all of whom won the Arc the year after success in the Vermeille - were produced. This season's programme included another Group One success, in the Yorkshire Oaks, work rider, Paul Tulk, set off



Back on the gallops this week, My Emma works her way back to fitness for her greatest test in tomorrow's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

Photographs: Edward Whitake

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and the march seemed relentless. Then came Black Sunday. "If anything goes wrong with her it's always because she's

caused it herself," Guest said. "Because she's that much better than the rest of them she always has energy left over. And wherever it's most slippery she seems able to jump on to that spot.

That morning she was just too well in herself and she slipped just after she came out of her box. When she got back from her gallop there was this great haematoma on her backside, a blood blister the size of half a football.

"I suddenly felt everyone was against us, especially as she's had only two runs all year and everything has been planned. It was a bitter blow."

It was a bitter day too on emerged to continue her recuperation. The filly was up before the sun and taken through light drizzle to a Conan Dovle morning on Newmarket's Watered Gallop. Among those pulling their collars fast on the trial ground were workwatchers and My Emma's owner, Ian Matthews, whose daughter has lent her name to the filly.

My Emma and her usual



beind Guest on a lead horse, Montecristo. The hoofbeats disappeared into the mist and when the two forms returned the order had changed and there was a considerable distance between them. Tulk reported it was the best My Emma had ever worked. Guest was more circumspect. "She has been really stiff and sore but she worked really good," the train-

er said. "She's happier within herself and by Sunday she should be 100 per cent.

"If we hadn't had this accident we'd have gone there very confident. But a biccup is a hiccup and you never know how much it's affected her. Whatever happens, everyone associated with the filly is proud of her."

In the run-up to Longchamp, Guest has received

heaps of enquiries about My Emma's welfare, several from people whose only connection with her is that a member of, their family bears a similar name. There have been promises to ring back with congratulations should she win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. It would be nice to telephone Chestnut Tree Stables on Monday morning and find the line engaged.

3.20 PRIX L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE (GROUP 1) BBC2 £750,000 1m 4f Penalty Value £448,934 40-631 POSIDONAS (17) (D) (A Christodoulou) P Cole (GB) 5.9.5... Orange, mercon disc., mercon 6.5414. STEMARD (21) (CD) (G Coude) D Sepulcine 4.95. 0-2233 LE DESTIN (FR) (21) (M Debeusscher) P Demercastal 4 9 5

Pinik, green triple diamonds, green steeves, pinit cap, gr 3011 BUSY PLIGHT (23) (D) (S Winglield Digby) B Hills (GB) 4 9 5 . Apple green, black steeves
PREDAPPIO (28) (0) (Godolphin) Seed bin Suror (GB) 495 Royal blue, white cap (17) (CD) (BF) (Godolphin) Seed bin Sunor (SB) 5 9 5 L Dettori 13 131

Pale blue, white & yellow check cap (COHANA (21) (CD) (Nins A Paulson) Ame C Head 6 9 5

Derk blue, light blue & white check cap BBADIYLA (94) (D) (H H Aga Khan) J Oxx (n) 3 9 8 UK) (46) (Spall S Champagne, red diagonal stripe & cap -1031 QUEEN MAUD (21) (CD) (3 Tanale) J De Rouale 3 8 8.....

Emerald green, white chevron and sleeves, white cap, emerald green dis - 16 declared -

SETTING: 5-2 Peintre Colebre, 100-30 Pilgudski, 7-2 Heliasio, 8-1 Swein, 10-1 My Emma, 14-1 Owar Schledier, 16-1 Borgia, 20-1 Busy Flight, 25-1 Queen Maud, 33-1 Ebedyla, Predapplo, 40-1 Gazalle Royale, Posidonas, 50-1 Lo Destin, Gee Belle, 66-1 Nothio Leica Danc, Showard, 1986: Helissio 3 8 11 O Pesier 8-4 fav (E Lelbuche) drawn 63 18 ren

FORM GUIDE

Heliasto was an emphatic 5-largth warner of this race on good to soft ground last year from PILSUDSKI, with Oecar Schindler a short-nose behind in third, Swaln a further length back in fourth and Le Destin another 2 largths behind in sixth. Helsoloc confirmed that form when beating the selection by six lengths in the Prix Garay over tim 2' at this course in the spring, but could finish only third to Swain and Pilsudski on soft ground in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot in July. over in 2' at this course in the spring, but could finish only third to Swain and Pilaud-ski on soft ground in the King George VI & Cleven Eizabeth Stakes at Ascot in July. As Swain is at his best with plenty of give in the ground and Helissis seems to bene-fit from the careful handling that he rocewes from Olivier Pesties, who rides Pelaties Celebre here, the consistent Pilaudski must be the selection. He looked better then ever when trouncing Desert King in the Irish Champion Stakes over tin 2' at Leop-ardistown last time and, as he showed his best form in the autarn last year, can be forgiven the Prix Garay defeat by Helissio. Oscar Schander came from a long way be-hind to sneach third last year and, with the same nider on board today, smiller tactics hind to sneach third last year and, with the same hider on board today, smilar factics can be expected on the colt who won the Ivish St. Leger over in 6f last time. He may need a longer trip to show his best. Painter Cafetine has won four of his six races, including the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) (fin 4f), but has raced only against his own age group and has carteinly not encountered opposition as testing as this. Le Death often runs well in top races, but has won only once and that was a minor series early last year. My Emmas boasts a course-and-distance success in last year's Prix Vermaile (Good to Firm) and should acquit herself well, while the winner of this year's Newmalle (Good to Firm) and should acquit herself well, while the winner of this year's Vermeille (Good to Firm) and should acquit herself well, while the withrer of this year's vermeille, Queen Blasci, is improving, holds the one-length runner-up Gazzelle Royale on that form, and should not be discounted. Postdonas feet a below-par Swein at Newbury recently but, at the age of five, has had his invitations exposed, while the trish Calcs winner, Ebedlyte, and recent Doncaster scorer Busy Flight, have not shown anough to suggest that they are up to the. More interesting to one of the German chal-lengers, Borgia, who had Predappio 2 lengths back in third when winning the Group One Grosser Press von Baden (Im 41, good) lest time. She has been supplemented for the race at a cost of 256000. Her compatinit, Que Bullia, best Bongle by 11/s lengths back in June but may not be progressing as swifty.

Pilsudski can take wind out of French sails

The first four home in last year's Arc may fight. out the finish again tomorrow and Richard Edmondson believes that victory this time may go to last year's Britishtrained runner-up.

It would make sense, this weekend, if the sails on the ornamental windmill sited by Longchamp racecourse turned for the very first time.

It is hard enough work to win a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, but this year's victorious nimal will have to fight it's way through the most insalubrious, stagnant air ever to have descended on France's capital. They should turn on the fan.

Traffic problems have caused the high level of nitrogen dioxide in the Parisian air, and traffic problems will also have a decisive effect on an Arc contested by 18 bustling runners.

It is a feature of this year's

against the most interesting backcloth in Gallic racing for many years. The antiseptic world of the French turf has been contaminated by a feud between two jockeys who have both ridden last year's Arc winner, Helissio, with contrasting success.

Since a public dispute over tactical riding in a race at Longchamp last month, Cash Asmussen and Olivier Peslier have become the Tom and Jerry of Continental racing. Tomorrow, Peslier is contracted to ride Helissio's rival for supremacy in France, Peintre Celebre, while Asmussen has not been selected to continue his brief association with Helissio.

Last year's winner will instead be ridden instead by Dominique Boeuf, who was himself guillotined from the horse after failing to win last

year's French Derby. Boeuf was the man who found himself-incarcerated awaiting serious drug offences two years ago; misdeeds the auhim up in prison almost all day. old girl. Mathematicians more

He was let out to ride work on the gallops every morning before returning to his bunk, and eventually escaped with a suspended sentence.

Peslier is now united with Peintre Celebre, the masterpiece of the Wildenstein art family. Papa Daniel was in fact the champion owner in Britain in 1976, since when he has got through more trainers than Liz McColgan's feet. At the age of 80. Wildenstein snr is trying to make some sort of sense of his son Alec's marriage.

Alec's estranged wife, Jocelvn, has never been a great one for housework. It is said she is unable to work that hugely complicated piece of machinery in the kitchen of the family's Manhattan town house, the item they call the oven.

Dear Jocelyn is reported to travel on the Wildenstein iet (with its horseshoe logo on the tailfin) accompanied by her pet monkey and five Italian greyhounds. Perhaps she has been unsettled by finding thorities took so badly they shut Alec, 57, in bed with a 19-year-

2.25 PRIX DE ROYALLIEU (GROUP 2) 538,462 added

gifted than Jocelyn have calculated her husband's age as ex-

actly three times that of the girl. The conundrum about whether Peintre Celebre is good enough to win an Arc may therefore seem like small beer to Daniel Wildenstein tomorrow afternoon. It may well be that this beautifully bred colt once again shows the awesome acceleration to remove his owner's preoccupations.

A startling fact, bowever, is that despite the victories of Helissio and Lammtarra in the last two years, Peintre Celebre will be the only three-year-old colt to go to post. Either he has frightened off all his contemporaries or they are considered to be a pretty ropey crop by their respective trainers. Either way, Peintre Celebre is worth ignoring among such a gifted

bunch of older horses. It is entirely possible that this year's Arc could be virtually a re-run of 12 months ago. The first four from last season reoppose, and they include the first three from this year's King George VI & Queen Elizabeth

_O Peste

Stakes, the supposed race of the decade. So tomorrow's event

cannot be too bad either. Helissio commanded his field last year, covering each furlong in 12 seconds until cranking it up at the entrance to the straight and leaving the posse behind. Subsequent efforts suggest he may be a bully of a horse and, if anything takes him on, that old head may go to one side and his challenge subside.

Oscar Schindler and My Emma will certainly not be in the vanguard early on, but their form suggests they will be finishing competitively to share the minor honours with Swain.

There can be only one prediction for the animal to be at the head, however. Pilsudskiwas second last year and later champion of the Americas in the Breeders' Cup Turf. The signals, especially his latest effort, in the Irish Champion Stakes, hint that he is not quite ready for a roaring fire and slippers. Go to your maximum.

British success in the Prix de l'Abbaye used to be as integral a part of the weekend as having your French belittled by waiters on the Parisian boulevards. However, Kistena led home a 1-2 for Criquette Head 12 months ago and the filly is again in the field. Royal Applause, who took the Haydock Park Sprint Cup for Barry Hills, seems to be a more potent performer this year and he will need to be.

In tomorrow's other Group One, the Prix Marcel Boussac, Ashraakat must go well if she is to maintain her elevated position in the 1998 1,000 Guineas ante-post market. But then she probably will as John Dunlop chooses to plonk only his best fillies in this contest.

This afternoon there are British runners spattered across the card at Longchamp, but the two old faithfuls are undoubtedly features of the Prix du Cadran. A few sentimental francs will be placed on Celeric and Double Trigger, who not only have to survive the home challenge but also the Republic's filthy air being pumped into their lungs for the best part of four and a half minutes.

LONGCHAMP – SUNDAY

1.30 EUROSTAR-PRIX DU ROND POINT (GROUP BBC2 2) 251,282 added 1m Penalty Value 235,897 1 1921 DECORATED HERO (10) (CD) (Exce of H Allen) J Gosden (38) 5 9 1 L Dettor 1919 2 2ml MARATHON (36) (D) (Mine M de Chembure) Nine C Head 3 8 11 ... O Doteuze 2 107 3 50032 EDEN ROCK (SS) (D) (Frau M Herbert) B Schuz (3en) 3 8 11 K Fallon 3 119 4 STB4 KALDOU STAR (SG) (D) (I C Secoul) E Leboche 3 8 11 T Thuffee 1 109 – 4 declared – BETTING; 8-13 Decorated Hero, 2-1 Marethon, 7-1 Kaldon Star, 14-1 Eden Rock 1996; Alfrestin 3 8 1: R Hills 8-1 (W R Hern, GE) Charm (I) 10 Jan

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ı	3	TÌ	ANNA PALAPINA (25) (D) (Shelkh Michammed) A Fabre 8 Ti
ł	4	\$331	SARALEA (FR) (43) (D) (Mine M de Chembure) D Smage 8 11
ı	5	015	PLAISIR DES YELX (FT) (25) (M Debeusscher) P Democastel 8 1: T Gillet 10 9:
ı	6	13231	SILENT TRIBUTE (21) (D) (Mrs E A Harris) M Bell (GB) 8 11
ı	7	2114	ICHUMBA MELA (42) (Mine Paul De Moussac) A Fabro 8 11
1	1 B	0345	NOEME (FF) (35) (Mine G Sandor) G Sendor 8 11
ı	9	1	DESERT DRAMA (49) (R C Shouse) R Colet 8 11 S Guillot 3 -
3	1	11	ISLE DE FRANCE (USA) (25) (D) (M Tabor) A Febro 8 11
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itet, 4-1 Silent Tribuie, 9-2 Arma Palarius, 11-2 Desert Orama, 13-2 iele De France, 7-1 Khemba Male, 8-1 Loving Claim, 16-1 others 1998: Rygian 8 11 L Dottori 2-1 ji lav (J Godden, GB) drawn (B) 13 ran

2.40 PRIX DE L'ABBAYE DE LONGCHAMP BBC2 (GROUP 1) £64,103 SF Penelty Value £44,872 OUDDU DIEST FINESSE (T7) (CD) (J E Sine) M. Larvis (GB) 3 9 11 M. Roberts 10 114 6008 EVENUISTERFORMANCE (T7) (D) (Ms D Besteum) H Cardy (GB) 697 C Ruller 3 177 5000 DON'T WORRY ME (SR) (CD) (J F Geograph 1 Haupton (SB) 697 J Peach 2 116 408350 HENER GOLF ROSE (T7) (CD) (Hener Reorg) T3 Haupton (SB) 697 J Weever 7 117 3465 CARMINE LANC (SS) (D) (R E Sangsier) P Chapple-Hyam (GB) 3 97 J Reid 1 117 211-31 IOSTENA (16) (CD) (SR) (Werthelmer et Frere) Mitre C Head 4 97 J D Board 5 125 11-41 PMS DE REPONSE (SS) (D) (Werthelmer et Frere) Mitre C Head 3 97 J D Board 5 125 11-42 PMS DE REPONSE (SS) (D) (R C Streass) R Color 2 6 4

BETTHIG: 5-2 Pes De Repense, 5-1 Reyel Apphilies, 6-1 Eveningperformance Don't Worry Me, 14-1 Avent, 16-1 Cayrding Lake, 20-1 Taus Livius, 25-1 others 1996: Kistens 3 & 7 O Dolouse 15-1 (Mme C Head) drawn (6) 10 roil

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C1	2.55 PRIX DOLLAR (GROUP 2) £38,462 added 1m 1f 165yds Penalty Value £26,923	BBC1
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29 2 108	8 20133 HANDSOME RIDGE (14) J Gorden (GB) 388.	
#i 5 104	= 8 declared -	
ocatiel.	BETTING: 5-2 Astambad, 7-2 Albeeth, 4-1 Visionary, 9-2 Handsonse Ridge, 5	1 Desert Story, 16-
	Lovi County 25-1 Massambett, 33-1 Bello	-
	1998: Flemensfirth 4 9 G L Detton 2-1 few (J Gosden, GE) drawn (G) 11 mm	

18/RACING

NEWMARKET Klimanjaro also trotted up that day and was only fourth in the Royal Lodge - but she still looked a special act to my eyes. Kool Kat Katie returned lame after her impressive debut win with Otvier Pestler at Nawbury in April, Again with Pestler, she was good enough to gain a cheeky win in a Listed race at Deauville (tin) in August and her dam wont over this longer mp. Keel Ket Ketie could still be anything and has a top replacement in Rey Cochrane. Dust Dancer is a tough coolide who is best at this trip. She had Gazatie Royale in third when she won the Prix de is Norfette (a race the stablets Birt Satisabil was de-quatified in last year) over ten furtongs, but the form was reversed in the 12-furiong Prix Normalia. 7 (65221 THE HUMANNAY THEE CHY OF COMMON TO SHADE OF COMMON THEE CHY OF COMMON TO SHADE OF COMMON THEE STATE OF COMMON THE STATE OF COMMON THEE STATE OF COMMON THE STATE HADEBION 1.50 FLAWLESS (nap) 4.10 The Faraway Tree 4.45 Monte Lemos 5.20 Broughtons Turmoli 2.20 Almurooi Firsther Flight, a remarkable veterals, has made this Jockey Club Cup his own with five wins and the delect lest year, when the oldebager wasn't himself, can be ignored. The race will be run to suit him with Double Eclipse aure to set the pace and the 11-year-old is likely to loom up to challenge. But the somy lest a this fast ground is far from being ideal. Double Eclipse, meanwhile, has been plagued with tendon trouble and this will be his finel race. Hots going to take the beating it in the same form as when third to his brother Double Intigger in the Goodwood Cup and on his Lonadale win from Sameser, He caught, a real bartar at Longchemp lest time when the ground went right for Orchestra Stat, but the one to beat him on this fast ground is JTPUSH, who ran pretty well in the Ascot Gold Cop and an impressive when from Grey Shot in a handcap at Newbury 16 days ago, ujush now meets Grey Shot on 2b better terms and held in the right heart to give Double Eclipse a real right. Georgie Ventore is on the upgrade but this is a stemer test for her stamina after she received stacks of weight from Madis Star at Goodwood. She is still preferred to The Faravery Thes and Old Roovel. Selection: JYUSH GOING: Straight course - Good: Remainder - Glod to Firm. STALLS: In 4 for side; remainder centre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None. In high-hand course with an 2 straight. Course is SW of bown on A 300 & Be link from Centricide and Newmerlost relistations. ADMISSION: Cub 220; fettersells 522; Side: Filing 55, CAR PARIX: Free. LEADING TRAINERS: H Cach 45 witness from 22 courses gives a success ratio of 247%; GLEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettor SI wire from 323 (245); R Handoon 23 from 330 (794). Hoberts 24 from 234 (103%); J Red 22 from 22; (85%). M Hills 27 from 251 (105%); BANCURITIES: 21 wire in 651 maces (24%); BLENKERED FIRST TAGE: Jilled (220; Angel California. 3.35 Rudimental (nb) 3.35 TOTE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS B) \$50,000 added 1m 1f Penalty Value \$50,627 s 24 from 234 (103%); J. Hesto 22 Jacon 224 person, RMTES: 211 wins in 651 races (32,45); ED FIRST Teld: Jilland (220); Angel Chilland (Jaconst) (335); Gein Line (viscred) (520). 1.50 OH SO SHARP STAKES (CISSO) (CLASS A) £14,000 added 2YO 77 Permitty Valtue £8,360 1 20300 DAMAND WHITE (42) (0) (Peter P Scott) 6 Browny 8 13. DR McCabe 1 2 (0) AMASEL (USA) (US) (0) (G Standardysh) 1 Belding 8 9 M Hitls 7 3 2011 DAZUNI LUDY (22) (M Parleng Krightiffles 6 Godiney P Henris 8 9 K Derley 8 4 12 PLAWILESS (23) (0) (Crawdey Peter Start) 5: M Prescott 9 9 G Duffield 5 5 21 NAME OF LOVE (25) (0) (W Fod D Loding 8 L K Peter 8 S M Prescott 9 9 G Duffield 5 6 13 NAMOUSHKA (20) (87) (Thurber Trotally through 1) R Henricott 8 9 Peter 8 S M Prescott 9 9 Parlistant Ludy (24) (87) (Charles A Newcombe 8 9 Peter 8 S M Prescott 9 9 Parlistant Ludy (24) (87) (A Goorle A Newcombe 8 9 Peter 8 M Hills 9 10 SHARRIAH (USA) (49) (Boddphir) Select bir Sarroy 8 9 R Hills 9 Peter 1 Permitted Ludy, 8-1 Name of Love, Namoush12 (10-1 Arasbol, 12-1 Diamond White 1396: Sardy's 8 9 R Hills 4-7 key (W R Herri) drawn (5) 7 ran 4.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 2YO 6f Penalty Value £5,796 (CLASS C) 25,000 2(TO of Pernanty Venue 25,790 Carter 2 59 28 RAISE A (CNR) (16) (D) (Jarreen Tabelt) J W Peyre 9 7 G Carter 2 59 18 RESQUE LADY (13) (M Goden M Holls B Larrence E Rice) P Harris 9 6. K Fallon 7 98 313 MONTE LEMOS (14) (6F) (S M De Zoste) R Creation 9 1 J Field 4 98 325 BLAKESET (29) (C) (More Al State) R American 5 1 T Carter, 1 52 31 RAIGEST (29) (C) (More Al State) R American 6 1 R R La Carter 1 50 PRINCESS MATALE (8) (M (D) (6F) (K Abdulet) B His 8 10 M Hills 3 101 100 PRINCESS MATALE (8) (M P Burlet Sottlement) M W Staterty 8 8 T Locas 5 50 PETTING: 5-2 Raine A King, 3-1 Risease Lady, 9-2 Monte Lances, Heiseam, 8-1 Bintmeet, 10-1 Eubourmi's Wath, 13-1 Phicease Heisein. 1996: Senerity 8 to 10 Harrisco 8-1 (J Fenstewn) clasm (5) 16 ran PORTAI GUIDE John Gooden has given a high assessment of RAISE A KING, who best rise Designer in great style at Yarmouth. With Designer being besten under a length by Heyll in the Middle Park Staless, Raise A King has an outstanding chastoe in this nursery. Raisque Lady, highly reads by Peter Harris, is best drawn and showed har Kempton form to be all wrong when she best Pure Coincidence at Haydock. Folkestone winner Haissen, tools well in for a colt who was six lengths behind Tespot Row on the July course. He could prose the main threat. Mootet Lemos had the experience when he best Raise A King at Windsox. The soft ground was probably against him at Newbury last time, as it was for Eubourme's Wish, when third to horry's Joy, though he didn't exactly impress when whiming his nursery at Sandown. Blateset cannot best Raise A King on a line through Shewdon, and Princesse Natalle looks too highly tried. 2.20 EBF EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 2YO filles 6f Penalty Value 25,208 5.20 LINKS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 7f Penal Value £7,668 1050 COSSACK COUNT (461) (S Dow) S Dow 4 9 11. Red, 14-1 others 1996: Begant Warning 8 11 M His 3-1 (8 Hills) drawn (3) 13 nan 2.55 EQUITY SUN CHARIOT STAKES (GROUP 2) C4 (CLASS A) \$50,000 added mares & fillies 1m 2f 4.10 PORTLAND PLACE JOCKEY CLUB CUP (GROUP C4.10 3) (CLASS A) £30,000 2m Penalty Value £19,710 C4 420032 GREY SHOT (15) (07) (J C Smith) i Balding 5 9 5 1 T Oober 1 112 1-6312 DOUBLE ECLIPSE 277) (C D B7) (Middlehen Phinp) M Johnston 5 9 1 J Reid 4 127 22443 FLRITHER FLISHT (22) (CD) (S Wingdeld Digby) B His 1 8 9 1 M Histor 1 22 120 (S Wingdeld Digby) B His 1 8 9 1 M Histor 1 22 125 170 M History C Digby (R History C Digby) B History C R History C FORM GUIDE Sessible twice went through, rather than over, the ditch on the far side, which makes it is gettent second to Belmont (dng in the Scottish Netional an even better performance. Going up just 3th should be neither here nor there for this progressive chaser who whis first time out, yet three mise on fast ground really sint designed to bring out the best in him and DROMHANA, from the stable that has won the last two runnings of this race, will be primate for the had-trick. Former high point-to-pointer Dromhara made an immediate in pact in this country last season and had gone over the top at Wincanton on his final outing after a promisert run in Cheltenham's four-mile NH Chase. He loves this fast ground and he is being tried in balifiers for the first time. Father Sity has had an unorthodox preparation for a chaser in that he won a Fat race at Goodwood nine days ago. Outs impressively, too. Father Sity had looked no more than an early-season pot-hunter until showing much improved form to win at Doncaster in March, the middle leg of a hat-trick. He's only Sit CHEPSTOW HYPERION 2.05 Crack On 2.40 Far Dawn 3.45 Sotya — 10 declared — Africana weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Brecom Set 12b. BETTING: 4-1 Distributed, Summer Speil, 5-1 Candon Book 15-2 Fasel, 10-1 Brecon, 12-1 Chief Mouse, Puntsh, 26-1 C 1998: Hamilton Sik 4-10 7 G Bradley 16-1 (M Pipe) 11 ran FORM GUIDE TISSAL LOWER mode a waterood start out to make or C 4.20 Northern Fleet 3.10 Samlee 4.50 Noble ard, 11-2 Fair Dawn, 6-1 Fairly Sharp. dah, 20-1 Cha © Left-hand, unclusting course with stiff fences. © Course is on A466. Chepatow station (Cardiff - Gloucester line) *m. ADMISSION: Calo E14; Tattersalls 10 (CAPS 15). CAR PARIX: Free. © LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe - 38 withness from 165 numers gives a success ratio of 23%; N Twiston-Davices 18-97 (18.6%); P Hobbs 18-62 (25.8%); P Nicholis 15-67 (22.4%). FORM GUIDE DISALLOWED made a winning start over hundles at Cheltenham last season and an eyecatching run in a ten-furlong ameteurs' handicap at Nottingham 11 days ago may enable her to start off on a successful note again in this first decent handicap of the' season. Deallowed is a confirmed front-runner who gets two and a half miles and she should test the tituess of some of these to the full with that run behind her. Her only unplaced effort in six attempts was when seventh behind Summer Spell at Kempton in January, for which she is attowed a very generous 20th. That was an impressive performance from Summer Spell and he had previous winner Far Dawn (3b better In) atmost nine lentile back in fourth. He continued to run well effer that but Far Dawn got his own back when runnerup to Qualitars Field at Airbree (Summer Spell six lengths back in fourth at lavels). While there's title to choose between these two useful performant, the fact that neither has had a recent run puts the ball in Deallowed's court. Fairly Sharp is an ex-hish fifty and was having her first run in Unis country when south behind third-placed Summer Spell, who lost all chance after hitting the second lest, at Kempton in February. Fairly Sharp went on to no. I rather Sky had power on more treat an early season pot-nate unto anoming much improved form to win at Doncaster in March, the middle leg of a hat-trick. He's orthy 5th higher and in with every chance with the edge from that Goodwood run. Bell Staffboy won first time out tast season and is useful on his day, but the statle is going through a quiet spall. Evangelica had already had four runs and two wars under her belt before fin-ishing runner-up to General Crack in this race last year. Selection: DROMHANA ● LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dumwoody — 13 wins from 109 rides gives a success ratio of 174%; D Bridgwater 18-74 (A43%); C Liewellyn 14-83 (169%); M A Pitzgerald 11-88 (162%). ● FAVOURITES: 139 wins in 343 races (40.5%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Drombana (310); Faeli (visored, 240). 3.45 STARTERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 110yds JOLLY JAMES (Brigader Recing) Mrs M. Jones 8 10 12. ORSAY (F22) (D J Deer) W Mur 5 10 12. SOFVAAN (USA) (F72) (E Relie) Lady Hernes 4 10 11. GALACIA (F316) (Richard Hackdich) R Mrs 5 10 7. 4 declared -2.05 TIMEFORM CHASERS & HURDLERS NOVICE BBC1 CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 2m 3f 110yds 27124 BAYERD (23) (D) (T G K Construction Ltd), J O'Shee 6 11 8... 053125 FRASER CAREY (S) (Mrs. James Burridge) T George 5 11 2... 1030- CRACK ON (175) (D R Pepplati) P Hobbe 7 11 0... -3 declared naving nor arst run in inscountry when soon beginning insurpassor Summers speak who lost all chance after hitting the second lest, at Kempton in Fabruary. Fairly Sharp want on to finish runner-up no less than four times before dotting up in a small race at Stratford and her consistency puts her in here with every chance. Punitath has looked a natural from the off and hean't been troubled to win three off the reet over Southwest brush hundles. He takes on much stronger company here but a run on the Flat 15 days ago at Newbury, where he was left with a lot to do, will have helped set him up nicely for this and he should a real research. So the Country of the country o 4.20 '50 YEARS OF TIMEFORM' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE BETTINC: 1-3 Crack On, 5-1 Fraser Carey, 7-1 Sayerd. 1996: Call Equiname 6 ti 0 R Durwoody 4-5 few (P Nicholis) 4 ran PORIM GUIDE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds CRACK ON would have made short work of his two opponents over fundies and it shouldn't on any ownerers in this novices crissle. Faving won opcart races at better and Sandown last season. Crack On was disappointing when tawourte for a sponsoned handicap won by Space Trucker at Cheltenham on Murphy's Gold Cup day but made up for that when next seen two months later at Huntingdon in January with a promising third over fences betterd Lightening Lad, Baywert has had a fine spell in some week early-season races but was found out in better company at Newton Abbot last time. In receipt of 6to, Frasely Carey should be a better afternative, even if he did stop quickly behind Crack Ons sta-ffaction of Fausting at Eighter on Memiss. 3.10 MERCEDES BENZ HANDICAP CHASE BBC1 (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 1010F- BELL STAFFBOY (186) (D) (K W Bel & Son Lini) J O'Shea & 11 10 . Michael Brannan (3) 4.50 VALETS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 55,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 2.40 TIMEFORM FREE HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1 (CLASS B) £10,000 4YO 2m 110yds -7 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Samina, 7-2 Father Sky, 9-2 Drozahana, 5-1 Evangelica, 8-1 Bell Staffboy, 9-1 Andreiot, 10-1 Beataon. 1998: General Crack 7 tl 4 A P McCoy 9-4 jt fav (P Nicholis) 8 ran BETTING: evens Noble Lord, 7-4 Robert's Toy, 4-1 Noble Colours 4.55 HELTER SKELTER MAIDEN STAKES 3.50 AUTUMN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,500 added 3YO 6f 15yds - 18 declared -BETTING: 8-1 Alpine Parithes, 7-1 Vertorica Franco, 8-1 Tautina Boy, Ca-sual Water, 10-1 Mountainest, Jaseth, 12-1 Mystic Quest, Ele-Ye-Mon, Mr Speculator, The Roundellis, 14-1 others NOTTINGHAM (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2YO fillies 1m 12901 DISTRICTIVE DREAM (12) (D) K hory 9 7C London (5) 11 E 12000 CHELI CONCERTO (58) P Majon 9 4 ... W Ryam 10 B 12002 AT LARGE (17) J Farshawe 9 1 ... M Day 9 15000 ZUGUDI (6) (D) K Methd 9 1 ... M Primper 5 HYPERION 2.45 ROLLER COASTER MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,200 added 3YO 6f 15yds 2.15 Alpine Panther 2.45 Dark Mile 3.15 Sky 450000 ZUGLIDH (8) (D) K Mehd 8 I ______ M Filtrerer 5 43020 CALTION (2) (D) (8) F 5 Golings 8 0. _____ T Williams 1 420531 LEVIALED (8) (D) M Charnon 9 0. ____ P Murphy (3) 14 63000 SWINO (10) F Evens 8 13 _____ A Cudhane 4 600500 LOVING AND GRUNKS (12) H Candy 8 12 ____ C Ruder 2 B 37500 ROTTEY SPENIEY (38) (D) R Hannon 8 11 ____ R Perham 8 54800 RUM LAD (22) (D) J J Dumn 8 9 _____ S Drowne 13 -23600 FREDERICK JAMES (78) M Heaton-Elle 8 9 ___ A Clark 12 605810 MOUCHE (5) (CD) Nrs J Ramsden 8 8 .__ Dean MicKeown 6 50530 STUMAN DANCER (45) C Wil 7 11 _____ Dale Gibbson 7 343430 SUITE FACTORS (7) (C) K Burle 7 10 _____ J Quinn 3 - 14 declared TTING: 9-2 Levelled, 5-1 Caudon, 5-1 Districtive Dream, 13-2 At Lerge, Rocket 3.50 Levelled 4.25 Zeppo 4.55 Virtuous FROW CREEK G Wagg 9 0. _____ A Clark 5 5.25 Passing Strangers 5.25 Passing Strangers GOING: Good. STALLS: \$\vec{\textit{s}}\$ & \$\vec{\textit{s}}\$ + stands side; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers usually best for \$\vec{\textit{s}}\$ & 6t. DEATH-hand, ovel course. Flat and galloping with easy turns. Course is \$2m\$ east of city off \$888. Nottingham station \$2m\$. AD-MISSION; Citis \$2^\textit{s}\$ (\textit{s}\$, \$1\text{o}\$ text Fing \$\vec{\text{s}}\$ Particots \$2^\text{c}\$. CAR PARIC, Free parking available. DEADING TRAINERS: H Cacil - 20 winners from 69 numers gives a success ratio of \$227%; J Duntop - 20-118 (163%); Mrs J Ramsdon 14-93 (51%); \$5 m Prescott \$2-42 (286%); Mrs J Ramsdon 14-93 (51%); \$5 m Prescott \$2-42 (286%); \$5 prowing 9-117 (77%). DEADING JOCKEYS: W Ryan - 15 wins, \$3 rides (13%); J Outen 75-174 (65%); Dean Mickeyen 9-95 (95%); \$ Drowing 9-117 (77%). DEADING FAVOURATES: 343 wins from 702 races (345%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Chill Concerto (350); Zappo (visored, 425); Marison (visored, 425). TELIN FAIR HANDICAP (CLASS E) \$4.400 2 DEMOCRAT SM Prescrit 9 D. ... C Nother 9 3 3 MCZAMEROJE (13) Mrs J Ceci 9 D. ... J Stack 4 4 254 NOBALDNO (17) Mrs N Macauley 9 D. ... S Drowne 6 5 0E5 BEAUCATCHER (65) M Heaton-Elis 8 9 ... R Purham 1 6 2-63 DARK MILE (17) BIF) J Gosden 8 B ... A McGloop 2 7 0D HAMILEYS (13) D Morts 8 9 ... N Day 7 8 04040 MELBOURREE PRINCESS (45) R Whater 8 9 ... M Day 7 9 4-4522 SILVER (RRSTAL (13) R Alectural 8 9 ... W Ryen 8 10 -22222 TITHCAR (26) B Harbury 8 9 ... C Lowdor (3) 10 - 10 declared BETTING: 11-4 Dark MBs, 3-1 Silver Kristal, 9-2 Tibbos, 6-1 Mozambique, 8-1 Barrow Creek, 10-1 Nobaliso, 12-1 Malbourne Princess, 14-1 others 0 PERFECT LADY (11) J Eustace 8 Tl

PUNTERS' GUIDE

CHEPSTOW 2.05: Richard Dunwoody has been schooling CRACK ON over fences at Philip Hobbs' Somerset yard and is fit enough and good enough to leave today's modest rivals toiling.

2.40: Crandon Boulevard has been primed for this race with a outing at Worcester last month. However, FAR DAWN won first time out last season, is from a stable in form and has the class to defy topweight.

3.10: David Bridgwater, injured since last April, can make a successful return on SAMLEE. This eight-year-old has plenty of ability, though he will need to treat these tough fences with respect.

NEWMARKET 2.55: Dick Hern could have run SARAYIR in the Cambridgeshire, for which she was well handicapped, but has choand take on the Oaks winner advantaged.

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Reams Of Verse. The him should be taken.

3.35: RUDIMENTAL is lightly raced and has what may prove to be a favourable low draw.

4.10: THE FARAWAY TREE was a close second in the Park Hill Stakes at Doncașter and, as a three-year-old is less ex-posed tan most of these. Geor-gia Venture is the danger.

4.45: MONTE LEMOS showed the best form of his four-race career when finishing third in a hot event last time. That was on soft ground, but as his chief rivals, Raise A King and Risque Lady have also shown their best on easy sen instead to up in her grade ground, he should not be dis-

	1987	<u>_88</u> _	89_	90_	91	92_		94		_
Fate of the favourites:	4	15	19	_t_	8	_1_	1	1/17/2		<u> : </u>
Winner's place in betth	ng: O	3	0	1	2C	_1_	_1_		. થ	_=
Starting-prices:	50-1	11-1	15-1	7-1	10-1	9-2	7-1		<u>. 11-1</u>	14
Winning weights:	81	85	86	89	91	93	7:13	8.8	930	8_
Winner's age:	4	3	4	3	6	7_	4	3	. 8	. 4
Winner's draw.	7	7	19	2	27	7	超	24	26	:- <u>.1</u>
Profit or loss to £1 stai	e: Fev	oprite	: 8 +£	H.50 !	Secon	d Fav	ouriti	18 –£1	<u>ක ·</u>	
Percentage of wirmers	placed	184,	2nd o	r 3rd	in les	race	: 90%			
Shortest-priced winner	Ramb	ola Ha	J (199	2) 9-2	!				·	<u> </u>
Longest-priced winner	Balthu	s (198	7) 50	1						-
Top trainer: J Glover - E	lathus	(1987)	. Ram	bo's l	iai (19	89 &	1992).	Clifto	n-Fost	(190
Top Jackey: Dean Mc K	- MAGE	Salt	IUS (19	187), R	елтью	s Had	(1989	8 196	22	1.

Punters warned on complexity of French betting system

Ladbrokes are warning punters to ensure that they understand what price they are taking with their bets on the racing at Longchamp this weekend

We are keen to remind our customers of the different bets available to ensure that they make the right choice,"Andy Clifton said. "The main area of choice is

on win bets, which can be placed either at Ladbroke prices or the French PMU returns for even on Tote Direct for the Arc itself]. "If a customer does not

specify, the bet will be settled same ownership are coupled under the French system.

have two or more horses running for you, but clearly the return is likely to be smaller." Tote Direct bets on the Arc

must be made on one of the normal Tote betting cards. Pasternak will take his chance in today's Tote Cambridgeshire - despite reserva-

tions over the going. RACING RESULTS

NEWMARKET 2.05: 1. MONS (L. Detion) 3-1; 2. Memorise 7-2; 3. The Fly 10-11 fax. 4 ran. 1½, sht-hd. (L. Cumani, Newmarteri), Tota: £350. Dual Forecast: £430. Computer Straight

Forecast: £1153. 2.35: 1. AL MUALLIM (A McGiona) 4-1 2.35: 1. AL MUALLIM (A McGiorie) 4-1 fav; 2. Marthy Sharp 7-1; 3. Mr Sponge 18-1 13 ran. 14; hd. (J. Payre, Newmarke), Tote: £4.90; £2.10, £2.50, £4.00. DF: £16.80, CSF: £27.07. Tricast: £390.93, Tric. £14.50, 3.05: 1. HAAMII (F. HES) 5-1; 2. Bhrtang 7-2; 3. Aix En Provence 33-1.8 ran. 15-8 fav Abraeza. 11/a, 11/a (J. Dunlop, Arunde), Tote: £5.60; £1.80, £1.40, £3.60, . DF: £13.0 CSF: £20.76, 3.40: 1. KEWARRA (T. Sprake) 7-2 it fav; 2. Shrvardii 5-1; 3. Faintail 10-1.8 ran. 7-2 it fav fittiyed. 3. 1. (B. Milman, Cullompton). Tote: £5.50; £1.60, £2.00, £2.90. DF: £30.50. Non Rumer: Desert Horizon. 4.15: 1. BOWDIEN ROSE (D. Sweensy) 14-1; 2. Ffaistr d'Amour (10-30) tav; 3. Al-1: 2. Ffai

4.15: 1. BOWDEN ROSE (D Sweensy)
14-1; 2. Pististr d'Amour 100-30 tay; 3. Almasti 11-2 9 ran. 1½, 1½, (M Blasshard, Upper Lambourn). Toter £13:90; £250, £150,
£150. DF: £33:80. CSF: £54:65. Ticasst:
£26798. Thic: £52.70.
4.50: 1. STRIAZDO (R Cochrane). 8-4 tay;
2. Mildyan Call 6-1; 3. Great Child 6-1 6
ran. 2. 4. (Lady Hemies, Littletampton). Toter
£270; £140. £340. DF: £10:20. CSF: £95:2.
NF: Change For A Burck
Jeckpot: £227:2560 (part won. pool of
£28,807:15 to Newmantet today).
Place 6: £194:88. Place 5: £33:21.
LINGFIELD LINGFIELD

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1.55: 1. IRIS MAY (J Weaver) 3-1; 2. Misseed The Cut 15-6; 3. Secchetti 15-1.6 ram. 7-4 sib Braganza (kit). /r. 1, J Berry. Codesham). Tote: £450; £170; £140. DF: £250 CSF: £882.

2.25: 1. DERNIER CROISE (M Tebouti) 5-1; 2. Circultuser 9-1; 3. Impulsive Decision 6-1.12 ram. 7-2 fav Legel Lark (8th). rk. /r. (B Meehan, Lambourn). Tota: £550; £220; £240; £230. DF: £25.01 CSF: £9738. Tito: £4890. NRs: Bus Shadow, Meane Business & Opening Night.

2.55: 1. DARING DERIEK (O Pealer) 11-10 fav; 2. Jilla 15-8; 3. Hower Goff Ramger 25-1.14 ram. 2.17; (D Loder, Newmerled). Tota: £250; £140; £120; £370. DF: £220 CSF: £255; Tric: £4340. NR: Dangerus Precedent.

3.30: 1. LAURENTS: LAD (N. Adams) 9-1; 2. Up The Wall 12-1; 3. Mohawik £2-1; 4. Miss Mulfrett 25-1.16 ram. 8-11 fav Behaman Melody, 3's. /s. (G Lewis, Epsont).

a. missi similari 25-1, 16 rgal. 3-11 tay 5a-harman Melody, 3's, 4, (3 Laysis, Epson). Toter £1150: £170, £360, £330, £390. DF: £55.40 CSF: £11368, Tricast: £800.58, NRs: Ocean Las, Saxon Victory, Tric: £5450 (psrt won, £115.91 to Newmarket \$35 today). 4-00: 1. BOLD TINA (C Lowins) 2-1 fee; 2. Churchill's Stadow 2-1; 3. Lodey's Girl 25-1 15 ran. 1. 2 (R Harmon, East Eventein). Tote: 23:0; 21:30, 24:80, 22:090, . Dr. 298:50. CSF: 22:342 Tricest: 24:06:46. Tric: 5:47:220. NR: Homesteed. 4.35: 1 CRYSTAL HILLS (G Hind) 4-1; Spartan Heartbeat 1-2 (av. 3. Bawara 1 8 ran. 114. 4. (J Goadan, Newmarkst).

Pasternak's trainer Siz Mark Prescott had insisted that the leading contender would only take his chance if there was significant rain. The wet weather has not arrived at Newmarket but Pasternak was, nevertheless, among the 36 horses standing their ground for the nine-furlong handicap. The horse will run. We

would like rain but we are notgoing to get it," said Prescott.

With the doubts over his running removed Pasternak, a winner of the Magnet Cup.on his last outing, is now the clear favourite in most bookmakers' at PMU odds. It is worth lists. The sponsors now make reiterating that horses in the the four-year-old 8-1 after cutting him from 12-1.

Gulf Shaadi has made the "This means that you could line-up after battling all week

against a foot injury. Yesterday's withdrawals were good news for handicap expert Reg Akehurst, whose Mihriz was in danger of being eliminated. Apprentice Paul Fitzsimmons will be on board and his 7lb allowance will take Mibriz's weight down to a featherweight 7st 3lb.

Tote: 2570; 2130, 2150, 2120, DF: 2180, CSF: 2585. Tric: 2570, NR: Gally Grecian.
5.10: 1. RANDOM KINDNESS (Mr.L. Jeford) 72-1; 2. Civil Liberty 76-8 ter; 3. Leurel Seeter 15-2, 11 ran. 14, 1, (R. Ingram, Fiskerton). Tota: 21480; 2300, 2140, 2180; DF: 21790, CSF: C3190, Tric: 23990, Non Rumer: Sarum.
Placapot: 212080, Chadpot: 21890, Place 6: C7822, Place 5: 542-97. HEXHAM

CIEATIAM

2.15: 1. BERNERA (E Husberrd) 8-1; 2. Perdiand Squire 1-8 fav; 3. Another Pices 25-1 4 ran. sht-hd, 27. (J. Mackie). Tota: 24-30. DF: 12-20. CSF: 12-70. NRsf. Gold-iner Alfie, Toshiba Talk.

2.45: 1. FLYING MORTH! (P. Niver) 1-2 fav; 2. Jumbo's Dresm 50-1; 3. Squandaments 50-1 6 ran. 23, 5. (Mrs. M. Riveley). Tota: 21-50, 1230, 1230. DF: 1232. CSF. 22-280. 3.20: 1. SALEM BEACH (M Mo

3.20: 1. SALEM BEACH (M Moloney) To-1: 2. Memble Men 7-2: 3. AR Cleer 7-1: 3 ran. 3-1 fav Another Ped. 'A. 'Y. (Merin Rut-hurter) Tote: £20.50; £3.30; £1.40; £1.20 UP: £39.00. CSF: £58.72. Tricest: £40.03.03. 2500. CSF: 158.72. Incast: SUGIIS.
3.50: 1. NONIOS (N Harriny) 5.6 lav; 2.
Western Venture 11-1; 3. Meantowisch 251. 10 ran. 4, 14, (G M Moore), Tober 5180; 120. 52.20, 53.30. DF: E210. CSF; 512.88.
Tric: £1300.
4.25: 1. TIGHTER BUDGET (A Double)

85-40 km; 2. Jonatem 20.1: 3. Delatamed 15-19 mm. 2/a. 29 (Mm Diarres Seyer) Taker 22-20; 21:0; 2850, 22:00. DF: £5930, CSF: 53745, Titosat: £508.40, Trio: £229.40, MF, Seeking Gold.

Seeking Gold.

5.00: 1. GALE AHEAD (B Skrmy) 5-6 feet.
2. Arctic Fox 8-1; 3. Castle Rad-5-; 7 res.
1/4, 12. (G M Moore) Rote: 21.70: EVEL ESSI.
DF: ESSI. CSF: ESSI.
5.30: 1. CHAPARRO AMARGOSO M.
H Naughton) 6-1; 2. Excursion 10-1; 3. Ben.
Doute 11-4. 7 ren. 6-4 fev Certain, Shot. 6,
1/2. (B Elison) Tota: 25.70; 22.00; 23.00 P.
24.60. CSF: ESSI3.
Place 6: 225310. Place 5: 25.052.



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HYPERION 2.30 Hisar 3.00 Edgemoor Prince 3.30 Talathath 4.00 Carole's Crusader 4.35 Nordic Breeze 5.05 Cardinal Rule 5.35 Scarlet Rambler

2.15 FUN FAIR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m 6f 15yds

GOIMG: Good (Good to Firm in a few places).

© Left-trand course. Run-in of 170yd.

© Lourse is south east of town near E5017. Ultioxeter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub 215 (OAPs 5°2); Tattersells 210 (OAPs 27); Siver Ring 24 CAR PARK: Free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe- 39 winners from 259 runners gives a success ratio of 30.2%; K Balley 23-112 (205%); D Nichotson 20-85 (233%). N Twiston-Deviser (7:01 178 7:04.)); N Twiston-Davies 17:91 (18.7%). NG JOCKEYS: A P McCoy - 24 wirs from 88 rides (27.3%); 1901 22-124 (177%); A Maguire 21-101 (20.8%); W Marston

12-TG (NGPs)

● FAVOURITES: 236 wins from 626 rides (378%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Danger Baby (400): The Shy Padra (M-

2.30 NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000

BEDEVILLED M Heaton-Fills 9 0 S Drowne 13
CROFTERS EDGE: A Jarna 9 0 C Lorether (S) 14
DOG WATCH J Gosden 8 L A McGlone 12
46 GREAT MELODY (7) J Existace 9 0 J Withorish 6
L DESTINO P Makin 3 0 A Clark 7
50 PERSIAND (19) J Fuschare 9 0 N Day 15
0 PRINCE BATSHOOF (8) M Bell 9 0 A Culture 3
02 RAY OF SUNSHINE (5G Mss J Florascher 9 0 J Stack 2
2 SKY ROCKET (27) M Sicule 9 0 W Ryan 17
THE WOODCOCK B Hits 9 0 W Ryan 17
THE WOODCOCK B Hits 9 0 A Clark 6
GRILLE SET SY M Pentoolt 8 C C Nother 4
0 ONLY IN DIREAMS (11) B Minchen 8 9 M Fabruit 1
PREDDY GREEN H Cardy 8 9 C Ruster 9 GEM P Makes 89 ____ C Notite 4
GRUE SET 5* M Prescott 89 ____ C Notite 4
0 ONLY IN DREAMS (1) B Merhan 89 ____ M Tebbut 11
C Rutter 9 PRIDOY GREEN H Cardy 89..... — 17 pecunior— BETTING: 11-10 Sky Rocket, 7-1 Dog Watch, Ray of Superhios, 14-1 Great Metody, Persiano, The Woodcock, Girlie Set, 16-1 others

DODGEMS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D)

3.15 DODGEWS MUDICION ST. 15yds

O ALGEBRA (17) R Harmon 8 0........ SEDEVILLED M Heaton-Ells 9 0

STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) 27,500 added 3m 2014 EDGENCOR PRINCE (203) (SF) P Hobbs 6 ti 0. A Magaine 0P-453 LITTLE TRICTURE (11) (D) Mrs T Mohmes Skinner 7 ti 0....

OP-453 LITTLE TINCTURE (11) (D) Mrs T McInnes Solarer 7 7 0 ... G Upton
FOI-P THE HYPERNY MARVEL (112) (D) T George 7 1 0 ... R Thomason (3)

3.30 SENTINEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 2m 4f 110yds - 16 declared - BETTING: 4-1 Kettlesing, 9-2 High Gain, 11-2 Take A Rick, 7-1 I Cried For You, 8-1 Zappo, 10-1 Night Auction, 12-1 Mercury Falling, Mariena, 14-1 Kettles Pet, 16-1 others

- 14 declared -BETTING: 9-2 Levellad, 5-1 Caution, 6-1 Distinctive Draam, 13-2 At Large, 7-1 Mouche, 8-1 Sylvan Dancer, 9-1 Solin Factors, 10-1 others

4.25 MERRY-GO-ROUND NURSERY HAND-ICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 2YO 5f

| Column | C

4.00 BRITANNIA BUILDING SOCIETY HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1354- ACT OF PARLIAMENT (155) (0) K Balley 9 12 ()_ 2025-: CAROLE'S CRUSADER (21) (0) D Gendalo 6 11 11 3 3494 MAJOR LDOX (225) (C) S Brodefrary 91 0 A Bobbin 5394 DANGER BASY (8) (C) P Bower 7 10 9 A PACOY B 5 P-CSILI THE GOPHER (7) (D) D Winte 8 10 9 W Marston BETTING: 7-4 Carole's Crusade; 3-1 Danger Baby, 4-1 Act Of Parlisment, 11-2 The Gopher, 6-1 Major Look.

4.35 STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000 added OFTI-2 NORIDIC BRIEZE (PBS) (CD) (BF) M Pipe 5 12 0A P McCoy 1901-1 DANESOLD (21) (D) M Chemon 5 11 8 A Thomson 314-11 MISHAMBRA (7) (D) D Nicholson 5 10 13 A Begulin PI,O-6 SYLMAN SARRE (13) (CD) D Steev 8 10 6 A 5 Swith 00045 SAINT CRE. (USA) (PIS) (CD) F Jordan 9 10 4 R Supple - 5 declared -

BETTING: 11-9 Nishamira, 9-4 Danagold, 5-2 Nordic Bresza, 8-1 Saint. Clat. 25-1 Svivan Sabra.

5.25 CAROUSEL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 11 213yds

5.05 QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added -4 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Cardinal Rule, 9-4 Factor Ten, 7-2 Coolee, 9-2 Speaker

5.35 GREEN'UN (SPORTS FINAL) NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,000 added 2m 6f 110yds

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The Cambridgeshire is one of the year's most tempting handicaps for punters and the statistics show that it can often be solved too. Greg Wood, who on the last two Saturdays has selected the I4-I winner of the Ayr Gold Cup and the 9-1 winner of the Queen Elizabeth JJ Stakes, picks an improving youngster to continue his winning sequence

It is very difficult to be a punter this morning and not feel a little intimidated. There are plenty of valuable handicaps spread throughout the Flat season which poke you in the ribs and dare you to take them on if you think you're tough enough, but none of them is quite so inyour-face about it as the Cambridgeshire. Just about the largest field of the year, many prepared throughout the campaign with just this race in mind, belting down nine furlongs of Newmarket Heath this is a challenge that few can refuse, even when they know that they are likely to get hurt.

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The first essential, of course, is not to let it know that you are afraid. In ail, 36 runners will enter the stalls just after 3.30 this afternoon, but you can look this field in the eye without blinking and overlook at least a dozen which are clearly carrying too much weight or have lost their form. Next, study the statistics, which reveal that, with the exception of Balthus's victory at 50-1 a decade ago, the Cambridgeshire is not the wild lottery which the number of runners might suggest. Four of the last seven winners were re-

turned at single-figure odds, while the other three came home at 10-1, 11-1 and 14-1. prices which in an average year are almost nudging favouritism.

Among the likely favourites this afternoon is Hunters Of Brora, who finished second in the race three years ago, a magnificent effort in view of the fact that Halling, the winner, was already showing the improvement which would turn him into one of the best horses in Europe but raced off a low handicap mark of just 93,

The problem with Hunters Of Brora, though, is that whether it is a well-handicapped opponent or a wall or horses at an inopportune moment, something always seems to prevent her winning, and she has not recorded a victory for several seasons. She also seems to go best after a break, which is not something she has enjoyed before today's race.

The memory of Halling, though, should direct punters towards an obvious source of progressive horses who may still be ahead of the handicapper.

Three-year-olds have a good record in the Cambridgeshire, and three in particular appeal as possibilities today. Prince Of Denial showed an excellent turn of foot to win at Newbury two weeks ago and is fairly priced at 12-1, while Rudimental is aalso tempting at

20-1 with Coral and the Tote. A better bet than both, however, may be SILK ST JOHN (nap 3.35). A 33-1 chance with those same two firms this morning. Mick Ryan's runner was just touched off by Yalta at Kempton recently in a race run in an excellent time. The mere reproduction of that form would take him very close today, and there could well be anprovement still to come.

The feature event on the supporting card is the Sun 12 furlongs, which is some-



Wonderful opportunity: Luca Cumani's filly can win today's Sun Chariot Stakes Photograph: Julian Herbert/Alisport

Chariot Stakes, in which Reams Of Verse, the Oaks winner, attempts to apply some polish to a reputation which was tarnished by defeat in the Yorkshire Oaks last time out. Henry

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Prince Of Denial (Newmarket 3.35) NB: Georgia Venture (Newmarket 4.10)

Cecil, her trainer, suggested afterwards that she did not stay

what unusual for a 12-furlong Classic winner, but even though today's mile and a quarter may be more to her liking, her York form is not what you would look for in a short-priced favourite.

The one to beat her could be One So Wonderful (next best 2.55), a one-time Guineas prospect who took rather longer than expected - about six months longer, in fact - to come to herself. When finally ready to race, though, she trotted away with a well-contested Listed race at Sandown, and she

should exploit the 6lb she gets from Reams Of Verse.

The Jockey Club Cup will be the last racecourse outing for Double Eclipse, who never quite matched the achievements of his full brother, Double Trigger, but will no doubt run his usual solid race against a field which is likely, ground conditions permitting, to include Further Flight. He won this race five years in a row before his sequence was ended by Celeric, the subsequent Gold Cup winner, 12 months ago.

Further Flight has a fair chance of making it six wins today, though it is something to anticipate and enjoy rather than

The nursery is another race best watched, while at Chepstow too, it is a little early in the campaign to get seriously involved with the jumpers. That said, Crandon Boulevard (2.40) should go well in the Timeform Free Handicap Hurdle and Father Sky (3.10), who has had a pipe-opener on the Flat, can win the Mercedes Benz Chase.

March. Cheltenham race-50-1 chance in the County Hurdle and their livers reeling towards total failure, it will feel a great deal more like hell, but at least, unlike Lucifer, they will have had a rol-

> Cocaine: As used by some unscrupulous Americans at the turn of the century, one of the the size of the overdraft on

licking good time during their

now to avoid disappointment.



C is for

Camelot: Purveyor of the

worst bet in Britain, and also the most popular. Any bookic who tried to pay out at 66-1 when one of his punters had found a 1,000-1 treble would

gets away with twice a week.

And while a bookmaker will

5p in every pound you stake,

which is not a bad reward for

running a low-overhead, risk-

free monopoly. As for your chances of winning, an illu-

minating (if fairly rough-

and-ready) calculation is that

if you buy a Lottery ticket on

Monday morning, you are al-

most 3,000 times more like-

ly to die before 8pm the

following Saturday night than

you are to hit the jackpot. If

your luck is really out, of

Certainty: "Something es-

tablished as inevitable", ac-

cording to the dictionary,

unless prefaced by the word

"racing", in which case it is

anything but. The list of hors-

es which allegedly had only

to maintain a pulse for the

duration of a race in order to

win is a long one, and in-

cludes hotshots beaten at

Royal Ascot at such short

odds that aristos with more

green than grey managed to

lose a fortune while simply

trying to make enough mon-

ey to tip the cabbie taking

them home. The story is also

told of the punter in the

1940s who believed he had

come up with a brilliant win-

ning system, and instructed

his bookie that he wanted to

back Gordon Richards's

most fancied mount each

day to win £1,000. It worked

well enough until Sir Gordon

was due to ride a 1-20 chance

in a two-runner race, making

the punter's wager that day

a rather meaty £20,000 to win

£1,000. Somewhat pre-

Cheltenham: As the sun ris-

es over Cleeve Hill on the

dictably, it lost.

course, you will do both.

risk instant gelding, yet this is what the National Lottery GREG WOOD THE A-Z generally be pleased to make a profit of about 3 per cent OF BETTING on turnover, Camelot takes

administered to a British

racehorse, though precisely

how hooves which were de-

signed for running could also

be used to hold a rolled-up \$100 bill has never been adequately explained. The Classic-winning trainer George Lambton, in Men And Horses I Have Known, recalls that in 1903, "one constantly saw horses who were notorious rogues running and winning as if they were possessed of the devil, with eyes starting out of their heads and the sweat pouring off them". In order to demonstrate to the Jockey Club that the practice should be banned, Lambton took the imaginative step of doping some of his own runners, administering five doses to horses with no worthwhile form. The results were four winners and a second, enough to convince Lambton's well-connected friends of the dangers of drugs. Their use was banned by the Jockey Club shortly afterwards, forcing gangs of agitated thoroughbreds to hang around street corners in the seedier end of Newmarket, trying to score a line.

horse to win a particular race, usually a valuable handicap, having carefully hidden its true ability from the handicapper by running it a dozen times over the wrong track, trip or going (in some cases, all three). Once he has snaffled the best of the ante-post value for himself, he may even tell the owner what the opening morning of the Na- target is. When the big day tional Hunt Festival in arrives and the horse improves on all its known form course looks like most pun- to come home in a hack canters' idea of heaven. Three ter, it is said to have landed days later, as they stagger into a coup. There is never any the darkness, their last des- suggestion that the trainer inperate pennies gone with a structed the jockey for its earlier races to be damn sure he did not do anything silly, like win - because that, of course, would be Cheating.

Coup: A trainer prepares a

Credit Accounts: And also for the cheques you send to covannual Fall from Grace. Book er them once a fortnight, in accordance with the wellknown mathematical rule that the sum of all your credit accounts is always equal to most effective stimulants ever your current account.

Some Picture gets his shot at immortality

No greyhound has ever won the Triple Crown of English, Scottish and Irish Derbys, but Some Picture could complete the treble in Dublin tonight before setting out on a stud career that should earn his owner a million. Greg Wood finds out what makes this dog so special.

He is young, gifted and black. He has earned almost £250,000 in the last 18 months and is reckoned the finest athlete his sport has seen for at least 60 years. If he had feet, he would not slip one into a top-brand training shoe for less than half a million a year.

But he does not. He has four paws, which in the space of 30 seconds at Shelbourne Park in Dublin tonight could carry him into greyhound history. Some Picture will leave trap five at 10 o'clock to race around four bends in the final of the Irish Derby, and victory would make him the first dog ever to win both the English and Irish Derbys in the same season. Not only that, Some Picture also won the Scottish Derby earlier this year,

a fake hare, but an unprecedented Triple Crown of the most competitive greyhound races in the British Isles.

Until Some Picture started his Classic collection, few in the sport believed that a greyhound Triple Crown was any more achievable than a Grand Slam in golf. A measure of the scepticism is the £100,000 bonus put up by Imperial Tobacco, sponsors of the Scottish Derby, the opening leg, for any dog who could go on to complete the set. They did not, you suspect, even consider the possibility that they might have to pay up.

And their money looked safe a little over a week ago when, after passing untroubled through the first three qualifying rounds at Shelbourne, Some Picture finished only second in his quarter-final, running as if he had just smoked 20 Players. He was beaten again in the semi-finals three days later, but as Steve Spiteri, his owner, explains, Some Picture was running on

nothing more than courage. "He'd picked up a stomach bug and he just wasn't himself," Spiteri says. "We were very close to withdrawing him, but he seemed to perk up before the quarter-final so we let him

and so will be chasing not just run. The beauty of this dog is hound's racing career is short, ond bends really hard and then flies down the back straight, but in the quarter-final that kick just wasn't there."

Some Picture will have had a week to recover from his semi-final by the time the traps snap open tonight. "If he clears the bend," Spiteri says, "he will take all the beating. He doesn't have to turn [the first bend] in front to win. He can turn third or fourth so long as he gets a clear run, and then he just explodes, the pace is unreal. He's so special, if you see him standing he's a fantastic looking dog, he looks like a statue. He's got brilliant physique, great balance and temperament, every-

thing. And he can run." It is not just those who know and love him who slip into fluent eulogy whenever Some Picture is discussed. The previous Arkle of dog racing was Mick The Miller, who won the English Derby in both 1929 and 1930, just three years after the sport began at Belle Vue in 1926. The tracks and punters have been waiting for one like him ever since, and most now believe that their vigil is at an end.

Unlike Arkle, though, Some Picture will not be returning season after season. A grey-

that he runs the first and sec- and with nothing left to prove whether he wins tonight or not, he will retire to stud immediately. There, he is expected to become the sport's first million-pound hound, with a covering fee of about £1,000 and perhaps two matings a day. "That's just off the scale," Simon Marcantonio, of the British Greyhound Racing Board, says, "most raceborses don't earn anything like that in their lifetime, and he was bought for only about £10,000. He is greyhound racing's Niiinsky, and in many ways his success has made the sport a lot more buoyant and optimistic. It had been in decline, but now we've walked into a big story."

History is not made easily in any sport, however, and Some Picture is far from a long oddson chance to win his last race. Spiral Nikita - "the talk of Ireland for the last two years and one of the fastest dogs ever to travel the back straight at Shelbourne Park," according to Spiteri - is drawn just inside Some. Picture in trap four, while Vintage Prince (three) and Toms The Best (six) are also will us contenders. Ladbrokes make Some Picture a slight favourite



Some Picture: Some dog

tage Prince just a third of a point longer on 100-30.

"It's going to be a sad day when he retires," Spiteri says, "it's not like you don't know him, he's not just something you at 2-1, with Spiral Nikita on 9 own. He's a part of my life and 4, Toms The Best at 3-1 and Vin- has been since I got him. But

I'm looking forward to seeing the pups, and hopefully one day there'll be a little black pup running around that would give you a bit of hope you could breed another Some Picture."

Photograph: Steve Nash

Tonight, though, one is more than enough. 9.00 JACK KIRKLAND MEMORIAL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 2YO 5f S ONSIGN PROMITTE SUR (14) (C) W G M Turner 8 TO ONSIGN PROMITTE SUR (14) (C) W G M Turner 8 TO ONSIGN PROMITTE SUR (14) (C) W G M Turner 8 TO ONSIGN PROMITTE SUR (14) (C) W G M Turner 8 TO DESCRIPTION OF THE SUR (14) (C) W G M Turner 8 TO DESCRIPTION OF THE SUR (14) (C) W G M Turner 8 TO DESCRIPTION OF THE SUR (14) (C) DESCRIPTION OF THE SUR (14) ON TURNER PROMITTE SUR (15) ON TURNER PROMIT

9.30 RUBY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added of

2 20MS MIKE'S DOUBLE (42) (CD) Gay Kalamay 39 2 (1) 4 50 MK (42) (CD) Gay Kalamay 39 2 (1) 6 8 4 Wholen (5) 6 8 4 40200 THORDIS (50) (D) P Mebin 49 9 (D) Holland 3 V 40200 THUAGE MATHY (4) (C) (D) K Cunningham-Brown 49 9 (D) 6546 HURGEL TRAES (288) D Share 3 8 (D) Family (5) 8 6 00004 HAMMAN'S USHER (14) (C) (D) K Cunningham-Brown 49 9 (D) 7 MAMMAN'S USHER (14) (C) (D) P Merphy 3 9 7 (D) Family (10) 8 200000 LISCH (CROPTER (14) (CD) P Merphy 3 9 7 (D) Family (10) 10 (D) 10 a tarnished reputation Dunlop, was keen to set the record straight. Looking back

Haami shakes off illness and

Haami redeemed a tarnished reputation with a workmanlike victory in the Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket Jop said: "He didn't run a race vesterday, prompting a re-enin any way similar to his first two try into the 2,000 Guineas reckor indeed today. When we got oning in the process.

After convincing victories on found he had a dirty throat and his first two outings the Nashwan colt disappointed in third place when favourite for the Group Three Solario Stakes at Sandown on his latest outing.

His bubble seemingly having burst, Haami was pushed out to 33-1 for next year's Classic. But after his 5-1 success in yesterday's seven-furlong Listed event it transpired that he had been sufering from a sore throat at Esher. His length-anda-half win earned a 16-1 Guineas quote from the Tote.

The winning trainer, John with me."

a bit of an infection. "The ground was also softer and I should think he is better on faster ground - he is a very good mover." Haami holds an entry in the Group One Dewhurst back at Newmarket in a fortnight, but is a doubtful runner, according

to Haami's Sandown run, Dun-

him home we scoped him and

to Dunlop. "I wouldn't think he would run again," he added. "Ask Sheikh Hamdan and see what he says. I might say he would run in the Dewhurst but I think he might disagree

Wales denied new racecourse

yesterday turned down an ap- Board funding. plication for 20 fixtures at Pembrey in the year 2000.

The BHB told the directors of Pembrey Racecourse Company that they had given the application detailed consideration. principally because of the lack of racecourses in South Wales. But application was unanimously rejected because of the ests of racing as a whole."

new onthoday, 10 year period of cover, costs from £6.78.

Hopes for a new racecourse in low level of proposed invest-Wales appear doomed after ment in public facilities and the British Horseracing Board heavy dependence on Levy

The BHB chairman, Lord Wakeham, said: "The Board recognises that the decision will be a disappointment to the promoters and it regrets having to respond unfavourably to initiative. The Board was, however, unanimous in its view that its decision is in the inter-

WOLVERHAMPTON HYPERION

7.00 Soft Touch 7.30 Pericles 8.00 Farmost 8.30 Mister Aspecto 9.00 Poetto 9.30 Village Native

STALLS: 77 - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 61 to 1m 41. DRAW ADVANTABLE regit from 57 to 1m 41.

Fibresand, Ish-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A449 Wolverhampton station 1m. AD-MISSION: Cub 215: Tatlersals 25 (CAP mambers of Diamond Cub. SQ; Vision Resistant \$25.90 including entrance and meal, CAR

PARK: tree.

© LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinsheed — 60 winners from 563

© LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinsheed — 60 winners from 563

Direct gives a success ratio of 907%; M Johnston 51 from 219

Direct gives a success ratio of 907%; M Johnston 51 from 219

Direct gives a 507 (14.4%); A Bellay 34 from 284 (12%)

[23.3%]: J Benry 42 from 281 (14.4%); A Bellay 34 from 227 rides gives a LEADING JOCKEYS: G Carter 32 wire from 227 rides gives a DLEADING JOCKEYS: G Carter 32 wire from 227 rides gives a auccess ratio of 141%; G Duffield 24 from 163 (147%); D Wright 23 from 261 (25%); Deen McKnown 20 from 191 (10.5%). O FAVOURITES: 387 wins in 1,588 races (32,6%).

GLASCERED FIRST TIME: Positio (visored), Russian Romeo (9,00).

7.00 PINK ICE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 2YO 61

STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 2YO 67

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- 13 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Soft Touch, 6-1 Reventle, Bound to Please, Lady Almina, 8-1 Arbenig, Mamble's Peneton, 10-1 Happy Wanderse, 12-1 others

7.30 AMETHYST CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) \$2,800 added 7f 17) 22,000 active 71
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00000 OSBERONS DART (80) (20) P Melan 4 9 4 ___ Paul Eddary 6
01300 TEA PARTY (21) (20) K Curninghant-Brown 4 9 3 _____ S Oroson 8 5 S Drown 8 8 1-6040 MOVE WITH EDES (61) (CD) W G M Turner 58 12...

09844 BOLD ARISTOCRAT (25) H Hollestread 6.6 TJ _A Call 0-0000 MY (GODSON (26) (D) M Dods 7 8 10 ... C Tasgae (S) 3 B 233000 ROCK SLAND LINE (23) (D) J Berry 3 8 B. C Lowber (S) 4 14500 COUNTLESS TRIESS (26) W Mar 3 8 6 ... Jo Hansen (S) 12 DOZOSE CRYSTAL HEIGHTS (50) (D) R O'Sulken 9 B 6.

- 12 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Greetest, 5-1 Periodes, 11-2 Effervescence, 7-1 Oberon's Dect, Tee Party, Nove With Edes, 8-1 Just Losi, 12-1 others

CARL LLEWELLYN MEMORIAL HAND-ICAP (CLASS E) E3,500 1m 1f 79yds DHEM FARMOST (4) (CD) Sr M Prescott 4 10 8 (Sex), G Duffeld 13
02300 (HEIGHTH OF FAME (4) (C) J Hetherton 5 9 9 _ M Tebbott 8
184606 WEET AND SEE (71) (C) R Hodinshood 3 9 5 _ D Grittons (3) 11

- 13 deciared -BETTING: 5-2 Parrocet, 4-1 Legal Issue, 6-1 Kristal Bridge, 8-1 Zerman, 10-1 Capitain's Day, Heighth Of Fense, 14-1 West And Sec. 16-1 uthors 8.30 DIAMOND HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 4f -04000 MIGHT CITY (4) K Burto 8 9 13. D Sweepiny (5) 4
583-0 ARCTIC THANDER (5) (7) 6 Paing 6 8 12. Dane O'Neil 11
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25800 CLASSIC EAGLE (346) Compiled 4 9 1 ... A Microsy 8 13580 GLOW FORUM (12) (CD) L Montague Hall 6 6 13 ... 13130 JOHNNE THE JOKER (17) (C) J Leigh 68 10. 000053 MASTER MALFRED (8) (C) C HI 588. R Middlen (5) 1 31-523 90094E LASSIE (129) (BF) C Thoman 3.7 S - 12 declared BETTING: 7-2 Opera Buff, 5-1 Masser Millfold, 7-1 Chica Castle, Mileter
Aspesso, 3-1 Glow Forum, Johnste The Jokes, 19-1 others

No reverse gear for Healey, Leicester's motor mouth

The Leicester Lip is back in overdrive after a disconcertingly quiet summer. Chris Hewett tries and fails to get a word in edgeways as a rejuvenated Austin Healey lifts the lid on life with the Tigers and offers a few considered opinions on the French, the All Blacks and just about everyone else.

Austin Healey is describing the warm, intimate, close-knit team spirit that makes Leicester the most envied club in English rugby. "Half the things we do in training are geared towards us kicking the crap out of each other. We're always at it. I was fighting with Richard Cockerill only last Monday, I quite enjoyed it. actually, although he's still in a strop for some strange reason. I don't know why. It was par for the course.

Perhaps Cockerill, the Tigers' hooker who won his first England cap in Argentina during the summer, will continue to brood until he gets even with his infuriatingly uppity clubmate. In which case, he faces a frustrating wait at the back of a very long queue. Healey dedicates more time to perfecting the art of the wind-up than any player since Brian Moore and, as a result, the rugby population is divided into two halves: those who plan to punch his lights out and those who have

already tried. His conversation mirrors his rugby almost exactly: it comes in rapid, staccato bursts, driven by a rich humour flecked with a mocking derision for those he considers deserving of

nothing better. He is not so much super-confident as supraconfident, his self-belief bordering on the obsessive, his ambition limitless. If Healey ever achieves the standards he has set for himself, he will be Gareth Edwards and David Loveridge rolled into one. Shoulder problems permit-

ting, he will this afternoon face Toulouse in a hugely significant Heineken Cup match for the third time in 10 months. Typically, he has an opinion on the subject, "It's time for them to put up or shut up, isn't it? We've layed them twice and beaten them twice. They've got a big reputation but they haven't done much away from home and if we play well, we'll beat them again. Nothing more "Psychologically, we've got

it over them, haven't we? They might come to Welford Road with an unbelievable drive to bury this bogey team thing, but when they look up after 10 minutes and see we've got points on the board, the old doubts will be there again. Mind you, I can't help thinking that if they stopped giving away all the stupid penalties they concede every game, stopped all the gouging and biting and fighting that goes on with the French. they'd find it more difficult to lose than to win. They'd be marvellous, you know. They're really very gifted.

"To my mind, the French aren't taking the game as professionally as they should. The same goes for the Welsh. If someone punches you and it doesn't hurt too much, what earthly point is there in punching them back? All you achieve is a reversed penalty, miles of lost ground and, if you end up being cited, a lost wage packet into the bargain."

As we are on the subject of

money, does Healey admit to a greater than usual weakness for the folding stuff? In his new book on last summer's Lions tour, Jeremy Guscott claims "Scally the Scouse" would do anything for cash. Any truth in that one, Austin? "I'll tell you one thing I'd never do for money," he says. "I would never, ever [long pause] read a book by Jerry Guscott.

"Let's face it, though. This is a pro game now and if you don't want to be fined, you don't turn up late for training. The old amateur ethos has gone for good and quite frankly, I don't want to retire from rugby, move into a council house and live on bread and water. I dearly want to play for England, not only to satisfy myself but because you get loads of money for it. I'd play for free if I had to because the prestige means more than anything else. But let's not pretend the money isn't worth having."

Healey's Test place is by no means secure, even though he finished last season's Five Nations' Championship chirping happily away at the heels of the England pack. A dodgy game in six feet of East London mud last May badly undermined his Lions campaign and, when he Cook Cup match with Australia, he lost out to his friend and rival, Matt Dawson.

"I could have performed better in East London, definitely, although the people who expected miracles from me in South Africa were basing those expectations on hard grounds and perfect playing conditions. I thought I played well enough to make the side for the opening Test with the Boks, but the selectors obviously didn't agree. I was more upset about Australia, really, but the setback motivated me. I got into my



reached Sydney for the one-off Austin Healey: 'Half the things we do in training are geared to kicking the crap out of each other. We're always at it'

220 20

Nuseds

club training nice and early and I'm mad keen to play against the Wallabies next month.

The England set-up under Clive Woodward and the new regime is pretty relaxed, although that's probably because he hasn't named his first Test side yet. It'll be less relaxed when you have 15 very happy blokes and another 15 thoroughly pissed off with life. Still, we possess the talent to have a great season. We've got to be

looking to see off Australia at home and, while New Zealand are a different proposition, I wouldn't even consider going out on the pitch unless I knew we could beat them. Eighty per cent of their greatness stems from the fact that the rest are scared to death of them. We need to put that sort of think-

So you've never been fazed by anyone, Austin? Never left

ing behind us."

well that you are on a hiding to nothing? "Once," he admits. "When I was at Waterloo back in '93 and we'd drawn Bath in the cup. I remember thinking, 'We'll never win this in a million years, but when they turned up without Stuart Barnes and Ben Clarke I thought, 'Well, perhaps there's just a glimmer.' As the game went on, that feeling became stronger and stronger. Final-

desperate and truly revolting attempt at a drop goal and I knew we were home and dry. It just proved that anything is

Even a Leicester triumph in the Heineken Cup, the new holy grail for club sides the length and breadth of Europe? "Oh yes, we've got a potential cup-winning side. Actually, I blame myself to a large degree for our defeat against Brive in ly, Guscott missed with a last season's final. If I'd tack-

led Sebastien Viars in the corner and stopped their opening try, it would have been a different game. Wait until I see him again. He handed me off three times and I ended up falling at his feet."

Shouldn't that be "grovelling" at his feet, Austin? You looked as though you were grovelling, "Don't be ridiculous," he snaps, the cheeky grin nowhere to be seen. "I never

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Noves faces his bêtes noires

in a particularly unsubtle form of psychological one-upmanship, he is now a clear frontrunner for the Conciliatory Boss of the Year award. His team, Toulouse, are playing like drains, he has his most influential international backs. Emile Ntamack and Christophe Devlaud, on the injury list and he knows he must beat Leicester at Welford Road this afternoon if he is to avoid a distinctly uncomfortable quarterfinal play-off match at the start of next month. How does he feel, given this litany of woe?

"Pleased." apparently. Rather a rum attitude, especially as Toulouse have suffered two consecutive. morale-sapping Heineken Cup defeats at the bands of the Tipers this year, Indeed, the last time the Frenchmen pitched up in the east Midlands, they tried everything to get the game, last season's semi-final, postponed. Even though the playing surface was more suited to Torville Castaignède, the visitors failed miserably.

Still, Noves is very much "up" for what is effectively the Pool A decider. "Emile will play his first game of the season for a junior side tomorrow, but there is no way either he or Christophe can face Leicester," he said. "I am happy with the way we have played in this competition, however, because we have kept on improving match by match. Last season's semifinal is a bad memory - they dominated us in every phase of the game - but we want to avoid the play-offs and secure bome advantage in the last eight and those ambitions are a big mo-

tivation for us." Leicester, who beat Toulouse 22-17 at Les Sept-Deniers a fortnight ago, have problems of their own. Joel Stransky and Craig Joiner are ruled out of the midfield axis by injury. so Waisale Serevi plays at outside-half with Mitch Read filling in on the wing. There are

Unless Guy Noves is indulging and Dean than Ougier and further lingering doubts over Austin Healey and Neil Back, both of whom were undergoing a final fitness test this morning.

At least neither side can go belly-up this afternoon. For Swansea, big Welsh hopes for a quarter-final place at least, victory over Glasgow at St Helen's is critical. The Scots, galvanised by their exciting 20-year-old wing, James Craig, will send the All Whites nosediving out of the competition if they contrive to repeat the 35-21 triumph they recorded at the Scotstoun Stadium last month. Another hot tip for a last-

eight slot, Bourgoin, are also up against the eight ball. Defeat by Munster at the Stade Pierre Rajon this afternoon will leave the Challenge du Manoir champions clinging to a longshot mathematical chance of progress to the knock-out stage. As the Irishmen are in the same boat, things could be very tasty indeed down there in eastern France.

– Chris Hewett

Former referee to develop Five Nations

The former Scottish international referee Alan Hosie has succeeded Tom Kiernan as chairman of the Five Nations.

Kiernan will continue to be involved as a committee man with the Five Nations, the International Rugby Football Board, the Irish Rugby Union

and European Rugby Cup Ltd. Hosie, 52, refereed 22 internationals before joining the Scottish Rugby Union in 1986. He has served on the Five Nations for five years, is chairman of the Laws Committee of the TRFB and is also on the Four Home Unions Tours Committee. "I am keen to follow up all the good work that Tom Kiernan achieved over the years," Hosie said.

The Five Nations is still the jewel in the crown, and it is my wish and desire to make this competition even better."

Richard Jasinski, the 10th secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union and one of the guiding forces behind the Millennium Stadium project, has resigned his post and will leave the job he has occupied for the past 15 months at the end of October. The 50-year-old former

managing director of the Cardiff-based Powell Duffryn Standard Ltd is returning to work in the private sector. "The WRU regrets the departure of Mr Jasinski, particularly having regard to the

important role he played dur-

ing a period of great transition

and activity both as union secretary and as a director of Millennium Stadium plc," said a WRU spokesman. Wales' top eight clubs will face opposition from South Africa, Canada, Namibia, Spain and Argentina in a £300,000

Challenge Trophy tournament to be played in two phases this The Premier League clubs will be split into two pools of four to play a domestic round of matches before Christmas.

The overseas teams will come to Wales in January to play in the second phase.

Northern Transvaal will represent South Africa; Cordoba, Rosario and Tucuman will travel from Argentina, and na-

tional sides from Canada. Spain

and Namibia will also play in

the tournament. The SRU has announced that Scotland A will play Northern Transvaal at a Scottish venue on 23 January, the same weekend as the senior Scotland and Under-21 teams play Italy in Treviso. Italy were unhappy about playing a senior and A fixture on the same weekend, as had been originally scheduled.

The Scots defeated Northem Transvaal during their summer tour of southern Africa. three weeks after the South African provincial side had beaten the British Lions.

The match against Northern Transvaal will follow a short tour by another southern hemisphere Super 12 side, ACT, who will play each of the four Scottish districts between 18 November and 5 December.

Club sticks by decision to

West Hartlepool have stood by their decision to sack the England Under-21 prop Virgil Hartland following alleged biting incidents in matches against Rotherham and Wakefield.

West's New Zealand coach, Mike Brewer, recommended that the Second Division club terminate Hartland's two-year contract for gross misconduct. The move has been con-

demned by Hartland's agent, the former England prop Mike Burton, who has threatened legal action for what he termed character assassination The England Under-21 manager, John Elliott, 'also

questioned West's wisdom, but the Brierton Lane executive chairman, Andy Hindle, said the club would not change its stance towards Hartland. "I have been astonished by the reaction of some senior people in the game," Hindle said.

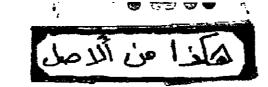
"This comes at a time when foul

play is in the headlines following the Brive versus Pontypridd game, and yet we are being criticised for taking action." West, relegated last season, have strengthened their squad by signing the Italian international second-row Mark Giacheri, a Super 12 performer with New South Wales. Another newcomer, the New

Zealander Emerson Nikora,

makes his debut in today's Allied Dunbar Premiership Two game at Exeter. Bath and Wasps will provide almost half of England's Under-21 development squad. The 30man group includes several players the England coach, Clive Woodward, has used in senior squad sessions at Bisham Abbey this season. The former Erigland A coach. Keith Richardson, will

take charge of the party. ENGLAND UNDER-21 DEVELOP SQUAD: D Alexopoulos, J Beardship asps), J Brown (Coventi an), D Harris (Moseley) C H



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CHRIS MAUME SPORT ON TV

There's a briefly disconcerting marks with undeniable accu- Vicci [sic]," he writes on the one member calls. The Last ing on about the badge, which his team makes to the season. in London, run by a former disc moment during The Board of the season. In London, run by a former disc moment during The Rugby Club (BBC2 Wednesday), in which it appears that the marketing men are advocating mass murder as a means of raising Bath's profile. "We'll shoot all the players in the bath," one of them says, then it turns out that he means filming the first team in the Roman Baths for an advertisement.

You can tell the club has the right people for the job in the harsh new era of professionalism (this first programme of six is called "Money, Money, club's name, and he comes up Money"). Stephen Hands, the club's marketing director hired from Coca-Cola, looks at the club badge, which says: "Bath Football Club, 1865", and re-

racy, "Iwo things hit me about board, a propos of nothing that. It says Bath Footbull Club' and it says '1865." Which as a statement of the bleedin' obvious is beyond parody. Consultants have been

brought in to re-work the image (though why it's necessary to rework an image which, for the past decade or so, has been one of total domination beats me.) One, who apparently looks like the smooth one out of Robson and Jerome, reports that they had toyed with changing the

with Bath Wreckers. He then explores the Ro-There is some nice intercutting man connection. "They were between a posh do thrown by great warriors, they were Brownsword and the last meetclever," he says. "Veni, Vidi, ing of the old committee, what

much. His big idea is the club lack of sentiment, the first-team slogan. He's pleased with this one, you can tell. "We thought: captain, Phil de Glanville, 'Hail. Bath!'" schmoozing at the party, says: "We've never had faith in the "As in what?" Hands asks, clearly unimpressed. "As a cry, committee." That will make

him popular with the old guard. as a car-sticker." The possibilities are, indeed, endless. The Later, more pointed editing idea that sticks is more sensible, brutally sets old world against less absurd, but somehow too new. As the PLC board meet polite: "A higher class of rugby." Brownsword's £500,000 The money for all this high-Grade One listed offices, the level brainstorming has come "old farts" as the programme from Andrew Brownsword, the calls them (since Will Carling's greetings card Croesus, who has coinage the phrase seems to put a few million into the club. have become generic for ante-

> over fags and beer, mostly in straight glasses, naturally.
> The PLC boys are still go-

> diluvian administrators) meet

Supper, a celebration of our has been given a makeover.

Despite £15m spent on players, the state of the spent of players, the state of the spent of the state of the spent of the state of the spent of demise." With an unguarded "But," Hands says, "the big move will be what we call ourselves." So what's it to be? Bath Bears? Bath Brigands? Bath Behemoths? Ah, no. It's to be "Bath Rugby PLC." This is the modern world, when the crucial factor in a club's development is what the suits call themselves.

Meanwhile, the Committee discusses a replacement for a deceased member. "I understand she's competent on a word- a deal with a menswear comprocessor," Bless them. Back at the board meeting, there is confirmation of the slogan "a higher class of rugby". John Hall, the director of rugby. shifts uncomfortably in his scar. As well he might, given the start

Bath are left seriously shortchanged on the field by the advent of professionalism. They lose their first bome league feats in their first four outings.

This contrasts tellingly with accounts of how a few of the players are adjusting. So, for example, there is John Sleightholme picking out a disgusting salmon coloured shirt as part of pany: "Love this shirt. Top colour. Are we wearing shirts in or out at the moment?" he says as he twirls in the mirror (if you have to ask, John...)

We also see De Glanville off to image svengalis James Grant

jockey Peter Powell, with a rosta of clients which boasts the likes of Philip Schofield and Anthea Turner, Phil, Phil, Phil, the thought arises, what the hell match and go on to three de- are you doing? Have you no pride?

As this first programme amply demonstrates, going pro is more than just collisting a sugar-daddy, revamping the badge and kitting out the players in smart threads. Stuart Barnes, the former Bath behemoth, now commentating for Sky, puts it best. "I don't think they're as professional as when they were amateurs. Professionalism isn't just the size

of the wad in your pocket." And long may it be so.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Oldham on the brink of extinction

One of the game's founder clubs has gone into liquidation and, as Dave Hadfield reports, it has few assets, with the ground sold and players aiready leaving.

Oldham, part of the game for 102 years, are on the brink of voluntary liquidation with debts estimated at more than flm.

The club, founder-members of the Rugby League in 1895, have been in financial trouble since losing their Super League status by finishing last in this year's competition.

Players have not been paid and talks with businessmen said to be interested in taking over the club have broken down. Administrative staff were made redundant yesterday.

"It is a cruel blow for the players and supporters of the Oldham club," said the League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay. "We are particularly disappointed as only at the end of August we advanced £280,000 to assist them through the winter and to pay players'

outstanding wages." Lindsay said he had tried. without success, to speak to Jim Quinn, the club's chairman. and that the League would hold the players' registrations until they found new clubs - or until someone comes forward

with a rescue package. Other clubs have gone into

liquidation and lived to fight another day but Oldham's plight is acute. Their main asset, their Watersheddings ground, has already been sold and is being transformed into a housing estate, while the cost of continuing to play at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park will be prohibitive on the modest gates that can

be expected in the First Division. Selling their more valuable extinction after going into players is one potential source of relief but those players were already claiming that they should become free agent because their wages had not been paid even before yesterday's liquidation.

St Helens have already signed two Oldham forwards, Brett Goldspink and Paul Davidson, but have paid no. transfer fees. Goldspink is' under a Super League contract that has simply been reassigned while no fee has yet heen agreed for Davidson.

on 31 December and we have registered him from 1 January, said Saints' chief executive, David Howes. "We made an of- A miserable moment in Brad- identical scoreline in vesterfer for him which was turned down and we are now waiting for advice from the League about Oldham's situation."

Meanwhile, St Helens have been preparing for this morning's clash with Brisbane Broncos with Andy Haigh coming into the squad for the injured Keiron Cunningham. Paul Anderson will be at hooker, a position he has filled occasionally in the reserve team.



Misery repeats itself for Bradford

Bradford Bulls ...

ford's memorable season was within one muffed conversion of repeating itself as they crashed out of the Visa World Club Championship.

The Bulls promised to improve on their last appearance at the Ericsson Stadium, when they were hammered 64-14 in the qualifying stage of the competition. They did - but only just, a miss-hit by the stand-in kicker, Sean Hoppe, going un-

"Davidson is out of contract Auckland Warriors62 der the crossbar from dead in acting half-back, Bradford though they might make a conwould have produced the out-

day's quarter-final. It hardly mattered. Bradford's effort - frail in defence and, apart from a brief flurry before half-time, unimaginative and error-ridden in attack - was similar enough to their last visit to

Auckland to make no difference. The Bulls suffered a blow before the same when the player of the season, James Lowes, was forced to withdraw with a groin strain. Without his spark at

front when a successful shot lacked the most damaging weapon in their armoury, but rageous co-incidence of an they managed to hold the Warriors to a penalty apiece for a scrappy opening 18 minutes.

They then fell apart, or were ripped apart by Steve Kearnev. The New Zealand Test secondrow did considerable damage to opposition from the Bulls as he broke through tackles at will to set up tries for Stacey Jones, Gene Ngamu and Hoppe in the

space of 10 minutes. Bradford briefly looked as

test of it when Abi Ekoku pounced on a mistake by Denis Betts and Graeme Bradley capitalised on strong forward play for two tries to leave them only

six points adrift at the break. But the British champions restarted horribly, a persistent lack of commitment in the tack-Australia in the Kiwis' victory le allowing Auckland to sweep last week; he encountered less in for eight second-half tries. Auckland Warnions: Ridge; Oudernyn, A Swenn, Endacott Hoppe, Ngarnu, Jones, Metarn, Eru, Ve-garna, Betss, Keerney, J. Swarz: Sobjettseles steed: Horo, Eles, Tulmapuna, Gutternost, Breatford Buller, Spruce; Scales, Peacock, Brolou, Crothfert, Stadiny, Paul; McDermott, Gratern, An-derson, Forshey, Niedle, McNamers, Subetthates steed: Donougher, Witterberg, Refrene, Mediey.

CKS O

1 to

30

Rusedski overcomes Enqvist to reach last four again

den's Thomas Enqvist to secure a 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 victory and a place Enqvist in the sixth seed's first in the semi-finals of the indoor service game of the deciding ser. of six, put Rusedski's service tournament in Basle yesterday. The British No 1 and US Open finalist was appearing in the last the sixth successive time.

tory with a love service game, Swede netted a volley.

Greg Rusedski wore down Swe- although the crucial moment

world and seeded four here, had overcome a mini break in the eight of an ATP tournament for first set tie-breaker to break Enqvist twice and clinched the Rusedski sealed his his vic- set on his first set point as the

15th in the rankings from a high Rusedski, ranked 10 in the under pressure immediately in the second set and obtained the vital break in the second service game as Rusedski put a volley

However, the 23-year-old serve - he had two love games had come when he broke Enqvist, who has slipped to during the set - on the first of his two set points.

But Rusedski dug deep and fought back in the third set, breaking Enqvist on his first service game to lead 2-0, with a brilliant backhand pass down the line which left the Swede without being troubled on his desperate dive to return the ball. meetings with the Swede and 6-7, 7-5.

Enqvist netting a forehand and then the Briton put away a precise volley to save the second

He then strolled through

Rusedski had only one wor- earn a place in today's semirying moment, when he had to finals against the Czech save two break points with Republic's Petr Korda, who beat the Frenchman Lionel Roux 6-3, 6-4.

In the doubles quarter-finals, Tim Henman, Britain's No 2. and the Swiss Marc Rosset bt the remainder of the set to Sweden's Peter Nyberg and Enqvist clinched the set sprawled on the court after a record his third success in four David Prinosil of Germany 7-6.

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

Liz McColgan faces the possibility of losing her position as Britain's No 1 distance runner on Sunday when she renews rivelry with Marian Sutton. The Scot knows only a polished perfor-mance in the BUPA Great South run at Posternouth will clied har victory over at Portsmouth will give her victory over the woman who beat her for the first time in fast month's Great North Run.

AMERICAN LEAGUE Play-offs: Bellimore 9 Seattle 3 (Bellimore land best of See series 2-0); Cleveland 7 New York 5 (Dest-of-five series lied 7-7).

Basketball EURCLEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP Group A: EURCLEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP Group A: Rest Machel (Sp) 66 Eine Plean (Su) 76 Group C: Bercelone (Sp) 71 Kinder Sciogne (t) 84 Group D: Pare SG-Racing (F) 66 Climpia Ljud-nere (Sciogne) 66 para (Schen) 63 THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Budwelser THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Budwelser league: London Leopards 97 Sheffeld Sharks 83.

TOUR MATCH: (Binal day of three) Kerachi, Reis Scoth Arica 305 for 70sc S M Felock Para. It Kells 52: All Hassain Rizel 5-89 and 25A It Kells 52: All Hassain Rizel 6-57; for 6 dec (G Kraten 61; All Hassain Rizel 6-57; Patient Board X 12; (All Nagel 51; Pat Sympatistan Board X 12; (All Nagel 10; Pat Sympatistan Board X 12) (all Nagel 10; Reiss Cayyean 53no). Makch drawn. Cricket

3 Saud Araba S-4: 4 Criss 154; GERMANY SQUAD (World Cup qualifi-der Y Affania, Nenovar, 11 October): 4: Y Affania, Nenovar, 11 October): Gonkhappers: Kabu (Boyen Marick), Köp-Gonkhappers: Kabu (Boyen Marick), Kabusar

(Doth Schelles Dd.) Wörms (Beyer Leverlasen). Midfielders: Habber (VB Studgen), Hässter (Katsune), Hamann, Strong, Tennst (al Bayer Munich), Heinrich, Ničiler (poth Borussis Dortmund), Jeremies (1956) Munich), Ramelow (Bayer Leverlasen), Wosz (VL.), Bodium, Ziege (Man), Forwards: Bierboff (Udinsee), Bobis (VB Suttgen), Kiraten (Bayer Leverlasen), Marschall (Valendaumann), Ricken (Borussis Dortmund). Ricker (Borussia) Dorinrund.

DEMMARK SOLIAD (World Cup qualifier v Greece, Actions, 11 October): Goslinegow's Schmeiche (Menchesear Drd.), Krogh (Brondby), Defenders: Tobissen (April, Schlerberg) (Golsenskustern), Rieper (Colic), Lauraes (Derby), Hage (Fensteine), Colicing (Brondby), Midfielders: Heistze (Bayer Linerbusset), Heisters (Rottenham), Goldback (FC Coperhises), Tomasson Mesosatto, Wieghnat (Calic), Tomasson Mesosatto, Wieghnat (Calic), Forwards: Molnat (Saelle), Mediar (PSV Enchoven), B. Laudrup (Fangus), M. Landrup (April).

ROMANA SOLIAD (World Cap qualifier Re-

Enchoneni, B. Laudrup (rampos), B. Laudrup (Ajot).

ROMANA SOLIAD (World Cup quelifier v Republic of Ireland, 11 October, Dublini; Goslikespars: Stales (Valedolid), Stingacii kespars: Stales (Valedolid), Stingacii (Romani Perince), Dubos (Altario), Clubosariu (Nellonei Bucharetti, Altario), Clubosariu (Nellonei Bucharetti, Solymes (Anderisch), Filipescs: (Galettestry), Ghorghe Popescu (Galettestry), Ghorghe Popescu (Rould Bucharetti, Middielders: Hagi (Galettestry), Galette (Esparyof), Munitario (Cologno), Serbon (Samus Bucharetti, Quantitation, Mand Potocinia (Barvette), Galette (Popescu (Liversibus Criston), Forwards: Mol dovan (Grassioppe Zurich). (He Galettestry), Crainettestry), Carlonestry, Crainettestry (Red Sociedad), Carettestry, Carbovania (Red Sociedad), Carettestry, Carbovania (Red Sociedad), Carettes (Schemi Bucharetti)

ACREM STATE RESULTS: Europea THURSDAY'S LATE RESERVED SECOND FOR CAP-Winsers' Cup First round second reg Cup-Winsers Cut First round second reg Cup-Winsers Cut I Alice with 4-2 on aggregate). Shows the statisties 0 Chelson with 4-0 on aggregate). Other ther Chelson with 4-0 on aggregate). Other there will be supported in a company of the company of 2-5); Sturm Graz 3 Apoel Nicosia 0 (egg 4-0); Budepeet Vestutes 0 Real Botis 2 (egg 0-0); Rogg 14-1); Legis Warager 1 Hapoel Beesshahn 1 (egg 14-1); Legis Warager 1 Vestura 1 (egg 1-3); Shekitar Donatok (Un) 1 Bonatok (Po) 0 (egg 4-3); Dinaturg Daugapela Euliga ASK Athenis 4 (egg 2-8); Tomas (No) 4 NK Zagreb 2 (egg 6-5); Harp Lagar Haldonal Langue of Ireland Premier Division: Dundak 2 Fran Harps 0, Ayon Instrumence combination Feet Division: Dundak 2 Fran

Stryth 77 SF, M Roe 78 BB.
BUICK CHALLENGE (Pine Mountain, Georgia) Leading Sinst-round accres (US unless stands as M Brisky 67 D Opin, D Love Gillertstad (Swe), G Halberg, B Chambles: H System 68 T Byrum, S Stdraw, A Doyle, S Pine, D Toms. 69 S Gump, B Maylar, C Stader, J Edwards, M Christa, B Fleisher, S Lowery, F Kurit, P Coydos, D Bergenio, Selected: 70 V Singh Fill, F Allem SA) 71 G Watte (NZ), 73 S Bidington (Aus), P Tentagrangi (NZ), R Alarton (Mer, 74 H Kate (Jepan), B Hughes (Aus). ice hockey Wayne Gretzky, the NHL's all-time leading scorer signed an open-ended contract extension on Thursday that as-

sures he will end his legendary career

as a New York Ranger.

Michael Doohan set a lap record at Philip Island during yesterday's open-ing qualitying session for the Australian 500cc Grand Prix with a time of train 33.822sec, two seconds quaker than Japan's Takuma Aokl, also on a Hon-da. Doohen's time was 0.7sec fester than the lap record set by competi-

FIGS IN 1990.

AUSTRALIAN GRAND PROX (Phillip biland)
Leading qualifying times: 125cc: 1 V Li
Liapuni Yamaha train 42A03asc, 2 N Leba
Liepuni Honda 1343a; 3 K Sakata (Japuni April134365 4 R Locates II) Honda 14472, 5 V Ressi (I) Aprila 134077, 6 J Martinez (So)
Aprila 134452 256cc: 1 R Waldmann (So)
Honda 138438, 2 M Bissol (II) Honda 13735,
3 T Lieben (Japuni Honda 137743, 6 T Taujamun
Liepuni Honda 138474, 6 O Jacqua (Fr) Honda
13838, 12 J McWilliams (Si) Honda
13838, 12 J McWilliams (Si) Honda
138382, 2 T Aid (Japuni Honda 138583, 3
A Berrox (B) Honda 138554 4 A CRWB (Sp)
Honda 138677, 5 N Abe (Japuni) Yamaha
13882, 6 D Beathe (Aus) Stanid 138822. nace in 1990.

Motor racing The trial over the death of Ayrton Sen-na at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix was adjourned yesterday after three of the accused, Frank Williams, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey, falled to appear in court. The trial will resume on 28 October with the testimony of Devici Coulinard, the former Williams team

Alain Menu, the Swiss British Touring Car champion, was deprived of pro-visional pole position by less than one 4,000th of a second yesterday, setting a time of 2min 17,426sec in qualifying for the Bathurst 1000 race in Australia. Jack, the three times Formula One champion, clocked 2:17427 in a BMW. Rugby League

Nugly League Vise World Club Chempionship Querier final Auctiond (21) 62, Bradford (14) 14, Auctiond: Then Hoppe 2, Ridge 2, Big. Bru, Jones, Matter, Ngarru, A Swarry, 1, Swarry, Goels Ridge 9, Bradford: Tries Brades, Biolo; Goels Michemere 3, (2003) REGAL MASTERS (Motherwell): Quarter-(j-mis: J Higgins (Sco) to R O'Sullivan 8-2.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Craven Shield: First round first leg: basics 50 Kings Lynn 40. Yorkshire Cup: Sheffeld 46 Hull 44 Tennis

Borls Becker will not defend his title at the CA Trophy starting on Monday because of an unspecified injury. Andre Agassi, a wild card entry, pulled out on Wednesday without giving a reason. Becker's absence enabled inspection of the Santa enabled. renchmen Cedric Pioline to become Hass obtained Agassi's wild card.

Hass obtained Agassi's wild card.

ATP MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Bante, Swit),

Quertar-finals: G Rusechold (GB) bit T Engwist

(Swi) 7-6 4-6 6-3; P Korde (CZ Rep) bit I. Roux

(F) 6-3 6-4 8-8; P Korde (CZ Rep) bit I. Roux

(F) 6-3 6-4 8-8; P Korde (CZ Rep) bit I. Roux

(F) 6-5 6-4 8-8; P Korde (CZ Rep) bit I. Roux

(F) 6-6 6-7 8-8; P Korde (CZ Rep) bit I. Roux

(Swit) bit I P Ny
Berg (Swe) and D Princes (Gen) 7-8 6-7 7-6. berg (SMB) and O From 1991 (1991) CHALL ENGER TOURNAMENT (Sarth Clark) Singles, second round (California): M Grzybowska (Pol) to E Dominitovic (Aut) 14 S-2 S-3; N Mysgi (Japon) to T Snyder (US) 8-4 7-6; M Tu (US) it J Lise (US) 6-3 5-7 6-4; C Cristes (Nam) It E Gayles-US) 6-3 5-7 6-4; C Crisses (Fami) at E Gagliar-of Swift 8-1 8-1; K Nagasulas (Japan) bit E Gagliar-of Swift 8-1 8-1; K Rogasulas (Japan) bit S Smith (GB) 8-3 6-1; K Brandi (JS) bit L Ghinard-Rubbi (Fr) 6-4 8-2; J Najadhy (Carl) bit R McCullian (Aus) 8-77-5-60 Doublies, Swift retember (-Plensing (Aus) and N Pratt (Aus) bit E Hajlanni (JS) and L Horn (SA) 3-67-5-6-1; R McCullian (Aus) and N Meye-

gi (Japan) bi S Casic (US) and L Osterion (US) 6-1 6-2; J Lee (US) and L Lee (US) bi A Lom-berd (it) and J Olada (US) 7-5 4-5 6-2. L Richtsonia (C2 Rep) and P Stojanova (Bul) M Invin (US) and M-Ra Jaon (B Kor) 6-3 7-5. m Irva (145) Bith Re-Ha, 180n (5 NO) 6-3 7-6 CHBMA CPEN (Pelang) Singles, Quanter-Smale: J Courier (155) bt J Kroslek (Slovek) 6-4 6-3; K Carlson (Den) bt A CPEnten (145) 7-5 6-7 7-6; T Johantston (Swe) bt G Pozzi (15 6-2 6-4, Dou-bles, send T J Middleton (145) 6-4 6-4 cx M Keil and T J Middleton (US) 6-4 8-4
LTA SATISLITE (Nottingham) Men'e Castrian
fantis: D Sapsind (SS) bt N Warts (GS) 6-2
6-2; A Foster (CB) bt M Zahlovic (Bos) 6-2
6-4; A Popp (Ga) bt N Way (CB) 8-2 6-4; A Parer (CB) bt L Milgan (GB) 7-5 6-4. Women's
Santi-finals: A Weinardph (GB) bt K Karner (Ge)
6-4 6-4; N Eporova (Rus) bt T Musgrevo (Aus)
6-4 6-2.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The birdies that Davis Love - the only player not to register a point in last week's Ryder Cup -

GOLF

Langer's unhappy surprise

Bernhard Langer is the last man to lose his cool under normal circumstances but things were far from normal as he played the ninth hole - his last - in the second round of the Linde German Masters in Berlin yesterday.

Langer went to the hole leading by three shots and hit his hall down the middle of the fairway, only to find it in a heavily sanded divot. The German called for the referee, but was not allowed relief and struck his pitch into the water guarding the green. Langer eventually took a doublebogev six.

That meant a round of 69 to end one shot ahead of Jose Maria Olazabai and Thomas Gogele and two ahead of Colin Montgomerie, Per-Ulrik Johansson, Thomas Bjorn, Andrew Coltart, Jamie Spence and Patrik Sjoland.

"The referee would not allow me a free drop. There was obviously too much sand in the divot hole which had not been repaired properly," Langer said.

Montgomerie, playing with Langer, agreed he had been "very unfortunate" to land in the divot, a shot that could have far more serious consequences than just a reduced lead. Langer is £87,000 behind Montgomerie in the official money list and needs to win the first prize of £125,000 to improve his chances of finishing as European No 1.

Oliver is back for more

Spencer Oliver hopes to go one better than Naseem Hamed and stop Italy's Vincenzo Belcastro when they meet for the Londoner's European super-bantamweight title at Alexandra Palace tonight. Belcastro, now 36, lost the European bantamweight title to Hamed in Sheffield in May 1994, surviving two knockdowns but still losing by a landslide.

Oliver, whose fight with Patrick Mullings last February earned the Best Contest of the Year trophy at the British boxing awards this week, has, like Hamed, had a meteoric rise to fame. The 22-year-old, with 12 straight wins, has graduated from a four-round fighter to European champion in just over two years. Oliver said: "Belcastro, despite his age, is very durable, so a win inside the distance would be a bonus. Naz may have dropped him early, but he stayed there."

Nicky Piper expects a swift conclusion to his challenge for the World Boxing Organisation light-heavyweight title held by the Pole Dariusz Michalczewski in Hanover. It is certainly the 31-year-old Welshman's last chance to gain a version of the title, having had two previous unsuccessful attempts. Piper said: "I think it'll be a short fight. It looks that way - about seven or eight rounds. I think I'll be able to stop him. He's a very aggressive fighter and I think his style is made for me."

HOCKEY

South Africa's invasion

South Africans are expected to play a significant role in the 10th season of the men's national league which gets under way tomorrow, following an influx of players which may cause alarm bells to ring at hockey's Milton Keynes headquarters, with possible pleas to limit the number of non-European players each club is permitted.

Chelmsford, readmitted to the National League this season and celebrating their centenary, lead the way. In addition to the return of Mike Cullen, so influential in their success last season, to Chelmer Park, a trio of compatriots arrive from his home city of Durban: Justin King, an international defender, David Staniforth, the Under-21 goalkeeper, and Mike Carr, a cultured midfield player.

At nearby Chigwell, Old Loughtonians include South Africa's Olympic goalkeeper, Brian Myburgh, in place of Scotland's Alisdair Seaton, who has left the club. Over at Southgate, three more South Africans, Gregor Maier and Craig O'Hagan from the senior squad and Craig Caroran from the Under-21s have signed on.

Even Oxford University can call on David Eadie, a South African Under-21 from Western Province, and Martin Firer, from Wits University.

Bitl Colwill

BASKETBALL

Finger sees no weaknesses

Birmingham Bullets' American coach Mike Finger will not be distracted by London Towers' injury problems when the Budweiser League's last two unbeaten teams meet at the NEC tonight. "I try to convince myself they have weaknesses, but I can't see too many," he said. "They still have outstanding depth." London will be without their England international Neville Austin and there are also doubts over England's Karl Brown and the American James Hamilton, who also

missed the midweek 75-65 European Cup defeat in Belgrade. Finger, whose team have won their three league games by a combined total of seven points said: "They were all too close for comfort. It's good to know we handled it but

I'd like a few easy games as well." That is unlikely to happen tonight, even against Towers. A key confrontation will be under the baskets between Birmingham's English centres Clive Allen and the 6ft 11in Chris Haslam, against London's 6ft 10in American Keith Robinson and the 6ft 11in Italian Marco Baldi.

Like Towers, Greater London Leopards will be without a key player after their captain Robert Youngblood chipped a bone and tore ligaments in an ankle last weekend. He may be out until the end of the month.

en, age as mean on may, to year period of cover, costs from £6.78.

- Richard Taylor

scored in the first seven holes of the Buick Classic in Pine Mountain, Georgia. He finished with a 67.

doch and Bernard Ingham in

Terribly sorry," he said as

I got up, "don't think we've met.

Peter Mandelson's the name

and Tony's asked me to look af-

ter you. Said he still blames

himself and I'm to see you have

old fan of Blackfaim Rovers

where I'd had my glory days

and we were soon reminiscing.

He didn't half remember it

well, though it was a bit an-

Well, turned out he was an

some Bolly on the Party."



GAFFER TAPES

Keane has

no regrets

lay-off

Roy Keane's season

Manchester United

ligaments attempting a

typically robust tackie.

Having to sit out

League campaign and

World Cup action with

the Republic of Ireland is

a bleak prospect, but, as

Nick Duxbury reveals, the

inspirational midfielder

has no intentions of

changing his all-action

It was a needless challenge, but

Roy Keane made it anyway and

must now live with the conse-

quences. Leeds' Alf-Inge Ha-

land had the ball, United were

losing 1-0 and Keane wanted it

back. He was not prepared to

wait and it cost him dear when

his studs caught in the Elland

Road turf and the knee buck-

who will miss out on United's

quest for the European Cup

and the Republic's bid to reach

next summer's World Cup finals

only he hadn't played on Sat-

urday, if only he hadn't signed

for United, if only he hadn't

made the run forward, what-

the player came across me.

After that I just felt my knee go,

something snapped in my leg.

The reality is that I have got the

injury and I have got to get on

Keane was seen as the per-

fect candidate for the United

captaincy when Eric Cantona

quit last summer. He leads from

the front with the style that has

prompted manager Alex Fer-

guson to label him indispensable.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

wish to be captain again next time.

in the Luxembourg Grand Prix.

Curo rookie.

"I was going for the ball and

"People are going to say 'if

in France, regrets nothing.

But the United midfielder,

led under him.

ever." he said.

with it."

United's Champions'

captain tore knee

ended when the

despite long

As I told the chairman, as money I need to put this great at the Labour Party conference, noying that his bleeper kept go-them soon and he must be Fallover Athletic embarked on a fourth lap of honour, "this Coca-Cola Cup's not worth winning now you don't get in Europe. It brings distractions, injuries, fixture congestion. Now we can get on with the business of surviving in the

"As long as we do that," said Sir Hirem Firem rather too coolly, adding, "meanwhile, I'll cancel the Wembley hotel you told me to book after the

The press were more sympathetic, nothing, I'm sure, to do with my announcing I'd restored their free bar back at our place. I gave them the same spiel and added: "That's why I decided to play an experimental side. It was a good chance to see a few players and try a few things. I learned a lot tonight, mainly just what a mess Big Mick left me with.

"Now," I added, thumping the table for emphasis, "perhaps the chairman will give me the

Patience certainly is not one of the Irishman's virtues, but he

understands now that he will

have to curb his impetuosity in

the months ahead and call on

the instinct that makes him rise

to the sternest of challenges.

and I'll be out for a while, but

I've just got to look to the fu-

ture," Keane said, who had the

scale of the damage diagnosed

during an exploratory operation

on Monday and will go under

the surgeon's knife again to re-

pair the cruciate damage in

"You don't know what to

think knowing that you will be

out for the rest of the season,

you have just got to put your

head down and get on with it.

the next few weeks before I

have the operation and then I'm

in the hands of our physio

lifted by United's 3-2 Champ-

ions' League victory over Ju-

ventus on Wednesday night.

television at his Cheshire home,

tus. I thought we were on top

a lot more than the result

showed and a few more results

like that will speed up my re-

United defender, Paul Mc-

Grath, has been given a one-

year contract by Sheffield

United following a string of im-

pressive displays since moving

from Derby County.

The 37-year-old former

covery.*

"It was the proudest moment of my career. I have won

many great tournaments around the world, I have won five

majors but nothing like this. This is very special" - Seve

Ballesteros after the European team he captained had

"I would really like to play in the 1999 match" -- Balles-

teros, announcing hours after the match that he did not

"He [Seve] was not a captain, he was like a father for

us. We put our hands on the clubs but he was the one

who played the shots" - Ignacio Garrido, a European Ryder

"I stalled it [the car] in the pits, which is just pathetic"

- Damon Hill, blaming himself for not finishing in the points

"Rugby union is a man's game played by men – it is

not a sport for cissies and I suggest that every club comes

to terms with that" - Alex Evans, Cardiffs coaching director,

after Tony Rees was suspended for 90 days for kicking

retained the Ryder Cup against the United States.

"I will build my leg up for

At least Keane's spirits were

He watched the match on

about four week's time.

"The injury is quite serious

club back on its feet and give the fans the team they deserve."

That should buy me some breathing space with the punters. As for the chairman, I'll tell him I was misquoted.

Then, after telling Kit Mann, my assistant, that there was to be no drink stop on the way home, I left a team that had gone from my first choice to "experimental" in 90 minutes to stew on the coach while I pointed the Ferrari back down the Al.

It was a long drive, not helped by two hours in Worksop nick for doing 110mph. Had to promise a few free tickets to get out of that one. The night took the gloss of

good start to the week. While I was in Valderrama last weekend on a scouting mission. (no luck, Real Betis were playing on Sunday so I had to miss the singles) we gained our first point. Then I went down to Brighton to help the FA plug the World Cup 2006 bid

ing off. I'm sure I caught sight of one message saying "Mil-Tone looked a bit nervous when he spotted me. We haven't met since I accidentally bank response unit: Ask him knocked him off his nag while about the Cup win over Arsewe were both out fox-hunting . nal in '74", but it's probably the with Sir Hirem, Rupert Murchampers playing tricks with

шу шешогу.

the Quantocks a few years Anyway, it got so late it ago. As I approached he had turned out Tone had gone to a quick word with a sinisteranother function, a dinner looking fella alongside and, just with the Asparagus Growers' as I began saying, "Tony, old Union. Big Party stalwarts, acmate, not seen you since..." this cording to Pete, who was kind fella stepped in and gave me enough to get me a taxi to the the slyest body check since station. Wasn't until Clapham Marco Gentile cracked three Junction I remembered I'd of my ribs in Turin 20 years ago. driven down.

Thursday I went to that FA teach me much these days but I did learn one thing never leave a mobile on when Fergie's doing a speech. He also said you should never use gimmicks in coaching, things like making players do three star jumps and a press-up between heading drills. Huh, he's just trying to wreck my coach-

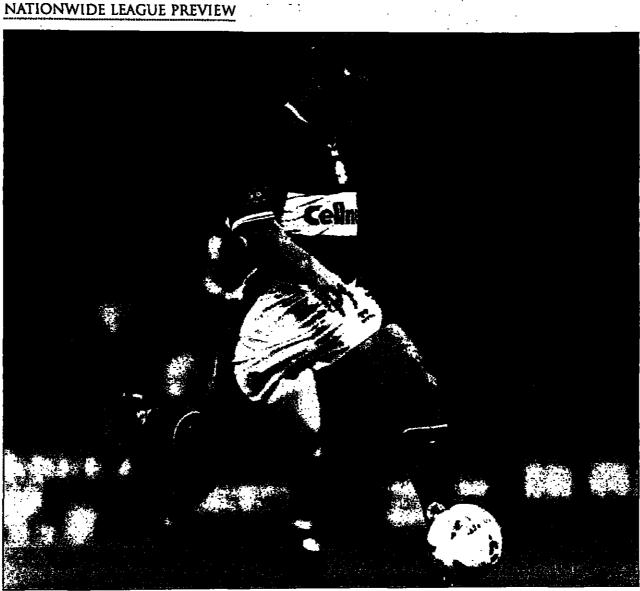
ing, he knows we're playing

worried.

I'll have to increase security at training now I know he's been spying. Otherwise he'll pick up a few more tricks and before you know it he'll have Ryan Giggs doing speedwork in Dr Martens; Peter Schmeichel down at the other Old Trafford sharpening his reactions catching cricket balls from the bowling machine; and Becks, Pally and the rest of them playing strip six-a-side - there's nothing like knowing you're down to your jockstrap to make a team defend with their life. And when it rains like coaches conference. They can't it did this week it makes for a

belting game. Meanwhile we've got problems for Saturday. I expected Shaun Prone to be on his back again, and Ivor Niggie to be out, but half the team claim they've got flu. At this rate I'll have to play. Wonder if I can get a boot deal sorted.

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore



Despite dropping down a division, Middlesbrough's Paul Merson has been reassured by Glenn Hoddle that he still has a chance of appearing in the England squad Photograph: Michael Steele

Doncaster can only dream of revival

and said: "It's been a week to forget really for me personal-These are troubled ly, but fortunately the lads had times for Doncaster a good result against Juventus Rovers, the Third which cushioned the blow a lit-Division strugglers who today face another club "Hopefully, the team will with a chequered recent carry on winning. We had a good result on Wednesday and past, Brighton.

a few more of those would be Phil Shaw considers the a nice tonic. I would love to basement brouhaha and have been out there on other key Nationwide Wednesday. It wasn't to be, but I thought 3-2 flattered Juven-League fixtures.

> The day Fulham launched their brave new world, a radio interviewer elicited a strangely churlish reaction from a Newcastle fan. He could have forgiven Kevin Keegan, he said, had he returned to the game with his home-town club. To which Doncaster Rovers' dwindling band of diehards probably responded with a wistful "and so say all of us".

They have given up waiting for a messiah in Doncaster. The 1.500 or so who attend today's Third Division basement struggle against Brighton will do so out of a loyalty strained far beyond normal boundaries. Many will be there chiefly to vent their wrath on Rovers' "backer", Ken Richardson.

Brighton's travelling support, free at last of the Archer-Bellotti regime but still commuting to Gillingham for "home" matches, will find unpleasant echoes of their own, acrimonious campaign. Doncaster, though, are not remotely fashionable; there is no equivalent of Des Lynam to highlight what is going on.

Yet in many respects, their plight is worse. Rovers are in "administration", with debts so high that accountants must approve every item of expenditure. Richardson, having parted with Kerry Dixon, runs the team, who occurs bottom place compared with Brighton's position two rungs above.

Doncaster's 11 League and .Cup matches have delivered eight defeats and no wins. Last Saturday they lost to a Torquay team including three YTS boys. while at Belle Vue they have scored one goal and conceded 18. Hardly surprising given that their summer signings came free from Hyde, Worksop and Gainsborough, and that Richardson's latest recruit, 37year-old Andy Thorpe, last played full-time six years ago.

The response to Keegan and Ray Wilkins at their first fixture at Fulham, against Oldham, will be revealing after the disquiet of supporters over the ousting of Micky Adams. The Second Division's top match, however, is the meeting of Luton and the leaders Watford, who have

drawn the last three derbies at Kenilworth Road but are separated by the length of the table.

The First Division's biggest crowd will be at Middlesbrough to see whether Paul Merson can unhinge a Sheffield United rearguard which has leaked just three goals since the arrival of another Paul with a problematic past, McGrath. Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, said yesterday that Glenn Hoddle had told him that Merson remained "very much in his thoughts" for the England squad.

United have won only once in the last 12 trips to Teesside. Manchester City, 6-0 victors but the kings of inconsistency, have a similar ratio from 26 visits to Ipswich. Portsmouth, who last prevailed at Stockport in 1924-25, and Wolves, seeking a first success at Bradford City in 70 years, are also striving to break

Barcelona seek to put poor European results behind them

The Barcelona coach Louis Champions' League matches, Van Gaal, criticised in midweek after his team drew 2-2 at home in the Champions' League, hopes Tenerife will take some of the pressure off him tomorrow.

The Spanish League leaders, with a perfect record in four matches this season, entertain the islanders at the Nou Camp determined to put their indifferent European form behind them.

But some supporters, who have seen their team lose 3-2 to Newcastle and then draw 2-2 with PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday in their opening to stop the Dutch side coming

fear Barcelona could crumble when faced by one of Spain's tough teams.

Tenerife, in fifth place, have former the Barça forward Meho Kodro upfront and have squeezed draws out of their last two games visits to Barcelona.

Local fans even hold the team in some affection since the Canary Islanders effectively handed Barcelona the title in 1992 and 1993 when they Real Madrid in key games.

Van Gaal tried four different defensive systems in Wednesday's match but failed

back from letting in two Luis Enrique goals - despite being down to 10 men. To make matters worse, the

game was just 15 minutes old when Barcelona's Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson limped off. He was examined by a doctor on Thursday, and the iniury appears serious.

That is made worse by the fact that Hristo Stoichkov, his natural replacement, is out of contention after clashing with Van Gaal.

Real Madrid, fresh from a 2-0 win at Porto, should overcome Deportivo La Coruña tomorrow ~ on current form few would bet against Jupp Hevuckes' men.

Real are lying in third position, behind Mallorca, the surprise team of the league, on goal difference. Unlike Barcelona, the reign-

ing champions have already had a tough fixture in the league this season - the derby with Atletico that ended 1-1.

Deportivo have not won a point in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in the last five seasons despite being ever-present title challengers and they have lost their way this season after the departure of the Brazilian, Rivaldo, to Barcelona.

SIDELINES

How Magpies turn into Cockerels

The traffic in personnel be-tween Newcastle and Tottenham who meet this afternoon, has been largely one way. A steady stream of



likely lads, from genuine Geordies to the adopted variety such as Ruel Fox, Les Ferdinand and David Ginola, have left to join their friends in the south.

Paul Gascoigne is the most celebrated example, the Gateshead galumph costing Spurs £2m in a 1988 deal which also landed the infamous Five Bellies. Chris Waddle, who earned Newcastle £590,000 when he made the same move, was already in town to show Gazza where to get the best silly haircnts.

The Waddle of his day, left-winger Albert Gosnell, undertook the journey in 1910 after gaining FA Cup and championship medals at Newcastle. Two years on John Mc lavish made the reverse trek, as did Bill Nicholson - later Spurs' Double-winning supremo - as a wartime guest. Keith Burkinshaw, the manager who brought Ossie Ardiles to White Hart Lane, cut his coaching teeth on Tyneside.

Jim Iley and Kevin Scott later played for both, while Spurs reserves Mark Stimson, Peter Garland and Paul Moran all tried their luck at St James' under the Ardiles-Tony Galvin management duo. Curiously, the only Novocastrian likely to be involved today, Chris Armstrong, is a Cockerel who has

Ten things that Leeds United's South African Lucas Radebe might be missing

Mrs Ball's Fruit

Chutney. So tasty it is

the most sought-after

food amongst South

Africans in the UK.

stewed vegetables.

world's largest flying

2 Boerwors sausage and

3 The Kori bustard - the

bird. (Nigel Martyn can

be good in the air, but

he is not an especially

4 Lions, cheetahs, leop-

ards, wild dogs, hyenas,

jackals and foxes. (All

5 The Cape of Good

6 26,000-year-old rock

elegant bustard.)

tamer than Leeds

squads of yore).



and cave paintines by the San bushmen. Only slightly older than memories of the last attacking George Graham 7 Diamond mines. 8 Table Mountain. Like Ilkley Moor only higher,

MEKEN

Taring to the second

by the coast, and with views of a beautiful city. 9 Polygamy. 10 Hillbrow in Johannesburg, South Africa's

Soho, featuring restaurants, cafes, bars, discos, prostitutes, drunks beggars and street kids. Not unlike Leeds city centre on a Saturday night, really.



NAME OF THE GAME No 3: THE THROSTLES

While other clubs have associations with mighty eagles, elegant swans or wise old owls, West Bromwich Albion take their traditional nickname - "Baggies" is the preferred. moniker these days - from the humble thrush (or throstle). It was chosen as the club emblem because of the bird kept by the landlady of the pub which was Albion's original headquarters. Another useless fact: The Hawthorns is the highest League ground in England, standing 541ft above



On 5 October 1985, Manchester United travelled to Luton having won 10 consecutive matches at the start

of the season and needing one more victory to equal Tottenham Hotspur's record of 11. United took the lead through Mark Hughes, but David Pleat's Luton rallied to draw the game 1-1.

In Italy, Mark Hateley was in negotiations with his club, Milan, over a new contract that would make him English football's second millionaire (Kevin Keegan being the first).

Bobby Robson made a trip to watch Hateley in action and saw his England centre forward score against Sampdoria in a 1-1 draw. Robson was also impressed by Milan's Ray Wilkins, but Sampdoria's Trever Francis got no further than the bench.

D7, L3. Without him, the figures were W10, D5, L2. Keane played in the 5-0 defeat at Newcastle in Oc-

N HISTORY

LESSON

How will Manchester Unit-

ed fare without the injured

Roy Keane? Pretty well, on

the evidence of Wednes-

day's win over Juventus and

In 1996-97 United earned

proportionately more points

when Keane was not playing

than when he was. With

Keane, who missed nearly

half the season, United's Pre-

miership record was W11,

last season's record.

tober but missed the subsequent 6-3 and 2-1 reverses against Southampton and Chelsea as United suffered their traditional autumn wobble. In fact, Keane missed so many games that he only played in two home Premiership matches before Christmas.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS: Dean Holdsworth (forward) Wimbledon to Bolton (£3.5m); Petter Rudi (midfielder) Molde (Nor) to Sheffield Wednesday (£300,000); Graham Lancashire (forverd) Wigen to Rochdele (280,000); Jason Dozzell (midfelder) Roterham to Ipswich (non-contract); Scott Mc-Gleish (forward) Leyton Orient to Barnet (undisciosed fee); Dean Walling (detender) Cartisle to Lincoln (undis-closed fee); Carl Bradshaw (defender) Norwich to Wigan (free).

LOANS/TRIALS: Gereth Hall (defender) Sunderland to Brentlord: Petr Kacharo (forward) Sheffield Utd to FROK Setonika (G?); Lean Michael (Groward) Crystal Palace to Fuham; Milichael Black (midfielder) Arsenal to Milichael; Braner Fernander (goalkeeper) Brentlord to Paterbor-Goalkeeper) Brentlord to Paterbor-(goalkeeper) Brentford to Paterbor ough; Richard Flash (midfelder) Wa

Madrid to Coventry (trial)

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newmen Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk. The Independent, 1 Canada, Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

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OLC

Masters of Rangers await Liverpool

Liverpool, Aston Villa and Chelsea, three of England's survivors in this season's European knock-out competitions, will all start their next ties away from home. Nick Harris reports.

Liverpool, who overcame Celtic in the first round of the Uefa Cup on Tuesday, were given a difficult second-round tie when they were drawn against Strasbourg, the French side who eliminated Rangers.

Aston Villa, who beat Bordeaux in the second round, were drawn against Athletic Bilbao of Spain, while Chelsea, who progressed to the last 16 of the European Cup-Winners' Cup on Thursday, were rewarded with a tie against Tromso, the Norwegian side. Liverpool and Villa travel to their first leg matches on 21 October, with Chelsea going to Norway two days later.

7.7

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Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, was not unhappy with his side's draw, but said: "Looking around the rest of the draw there aren't many teams left that you'd say 'I fancy them'. I've seen [Strasbourg] a few times last season and they were clearly a good side, technically excellent. Although they haven't started this season very well you'll find that they'll raise their game to play against us."

Aston Villa's manager, Brian Little, will be returning to

against them in the same competition. Villa overcame Bilbao then, but Little expects a tougher contest this time. "The tournament is hard and a lot of people will look upon Bilbao as a threat, having claimed a hell of a scalp in knocking out Sampdoria," he said.

Rund Guilit, whose Chelsea side perhaps have the easiest passage, thinks that, although they will need the right attitude, having two Norwegians, Tore Andre Flo and Frode Grodas in their squad "will be an advantage to us and ensure that we don't have too many surprises". Whether the Cup-Winners' Cup tie later this month will be played in Tromso's 12,000-capacity Alfheim stadium near the Arctic Circle, or in Oslo, has yet to be decided.

The conquerors of Leicester and Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and PAOK Salonika, have been drawn against each other, with the Greek side travelling to Spain for the first leg.

Uefa have ordered Spartak Moscow and Sion to replay their first-round, second-leg match. The Swiss side drew 2-2 draw in Moscow on Wednesday, losing 3-2 on aggregate, but the crossbars on the Russian goals were too low.

Manchester United's Champions' League match with Kosice at Old Trafford is likely to be put back 24 hours to 27 November to allow live television coveragee of that match and Newcastle's game in Barcelona, which will be played on Bilbao 20 years after playing 26 November as scheduled.



Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo, after helping to overcome Slovan Bratislava on Thursday, faces a journey back home to Norway in the Cup-Winners' Cup second round when the west Londoners visit Tromso in the first leg

Uefa Cup second-round draw Ajax (Neth) v Udinese (It) Sporting Braga (Por) v Dinamo Thilisi (Geor) Metz (Fr) v Karlsruhe (Ger) Strasbourg (Fr) v Liverpool internazionale (it) v Lyon (Fr) Rapid Vienna v 1860 Munich MTK Budapest v Croatia Zagreb Spartak Moscow or Sion (Swit) v Real Valladolid (Sp)

Schalle D4 (Ger) v Anderlecht (Bel) Aarhus (Den) v Twente Enschede (Neth) Athletic Bibao (Sp) v Aston Villa Auxema (Fr) v ÖFI traktion (Gr) Steaua Bucharest v Bastia (Fr) Rotor Volgograd (Rus) v Lazio (it)

Atletico Madrid v PAOK Salonika (Gr) Club Bruges (Bel) v VfL Bochum (Ger)
First legs to be played 21 October, second legs 4

Cup-Winners' Cup second-round draw Tromso (Nor) v Chelsee Germinal Ekeren (Bel) v VfB Stuttgart (Ger) Lokomotiv Moscow v Kocaelispor (Turk) Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) v Vicenza (It) Real Betis (Sp) v PC Copenhagen AEK Athens v Sturm Graz (Aut) Nice (Fr) v Slavia Prague Primorje Ajdovscina (Sloven) v Roda JC Kerkrade (Neth) First legs to be played 23 October, second legs 6 November SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Aitken given vote of confidence

The Aberdeen manager Roy Aitken has been given a vote of confidence from the club's directors, even though his side have won only two league games in 27 and go into today's game at St Johnstone at the bottom of the Premier Division.

The executive vice chairman Stewart Milne yesterday insisted that Aitken's position was not under threat, but he was critical of the playing staff, accusing them of making basic errors. He said: "We can all see that individually the players have the required ability and technical skills.

"But satisfaction with attractive football turns into frustration when the team goes from dominating major parts of each game to missing good chances and committing basic

"As Roy has said before, far too often we're suffering from avoidable basic defensive errors and failing to take advantage of the good opportunities we're creating.

"We need to achieve greater individual and collective responsibility on the field. We need to achieve much greater communication and support between the players on the field. We need to achieve full concentration on the part of all players for the entire game and every game.

"If we can do that, we will stop making the avoidable errors at the back and start taking more of the goal-making opportuni-

ties we have been creating." Milne added: "Roy is not complacent and is fully aware that much still needs to be done to ensure we get the positive result I know our players are more than capable of providing.

Roy and his team are addressing those areas. They need improving and the spirit and the team feeling among the players has improved significantly. That culminated this week in the team-building exercise Roy initiated by taking the players

away from home. We're confident we will reap the rewards of this additional activity tomorrow and throughout the rest of this sea-

"But everyone involved in the club, including the fans, must recognise the collective responsibility for our current and future league position.

"We know we have the attributes and the character required to turn things around here at Pittodrie. It's up to each and every one of us to ensure we do so to go on and achieve the success that we and the fans want and deserve."

Milne insists that at no time has the manager's future been discussed by the board. Aitken, who has firmly refused to discuss his position this

week, said: "It was a constructive meeting but all our weekly meetings are." The St Johnstone manager Paul Sturrock, a former in-

Aitken's, is expecting a rough ride today. "Aberdeen will be be up for this game and they'll have to get

ternational colleague of

er." he said. "They've been playing better than people have given them credit for and they'll be

very tough opposition. "With the quality of individuals in the Aberdeen team you'd have to say that they're in a false position."

Major weekend fixtures and pools check

First Division

Second Division 22 Fulham v Oldh

Third Division 31 Cardiff v Barnet 32 Chester v Hartlep

Premier Division 40 Celic v Klimamock 41 Duniermine v Durdee Utd.

First Division Second Division

back on the rails sooner or lat-

FA Carling Premiership Liverpool v Chelses (44) Nationwide League First Division Middesprov Sheffield Uto (10)

3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership 1 Arsenal v Sameley 2 Botton v Aston Villa

Nationwide League

First Division
9 Birmingham v Crows
10 Bradford v Wolves
11 Ioserich v Manchester CBy
12 CPR v Charlton
13 Reading v Sunderland
14 Stockport v Portsmouth
15 Stockport v Portsmouth
15 Stockport v Portsmouth
16 Swindon v Port Vale
17 Tourname v Monteich 17 Transpers v Norwich. 18 West Brom v Oxford.

20 Burnley v Wycombs 22 Fullism v Oldham
22 Gengtam v Bristol City
24 Gennsty v Wigen
25 Luton v Westord
25 Luton v Westord
27 Presion v Brentford
27 Presion v Brentford
28 Southend v Northampton.
29 Watesil v Carliste

Bell's Scottish League

Third Division

- Actroath v Abton

- Berwick v Counterbeath...

- East Stirling v Dumberton.

- Queen's Park v Montrose

- Ross County v Alica...... Tomorrow

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

Today

Football

3 mm 3 5 5 2 2 WAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Chekenham Strivich, Famborough v Hayes; Halles v Ket-ner Hartmedner v Kirkenningter: Tank v ISTHUMAN LEAGUE Promier ham Wood v Oxford City: Bro Dagerham & Reclanding v Che Bishoph Storthoot; Graessend v Carstellon; Her-row Borough v St Albans; Hendon v Kingston-lar; Heybridge v Bastingstole; Hibritin v Dulwich; Satton Und v Watton & Hesphern; Yearing v Ayles-bury; Finet Divisions; Abbrigdon; Town v Grays; Aldeshot, v Leatherhead; Barton Hovers v

ford v Hornchurch.

INESOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Accuragen Sunley v Boston Utd. Barrow v Spenrymoor, Bishop Audisand v Hyde, Byth Sportans v Whathort, Colleys Bey of Quiesley, Enricy v Croley, Gahasborough v Raddiffe, Lancaster v Altrinchen; Leigh Hill v Frickey, Marine v Alfreton, Pember Bridge, First Division: Congleton v Belpar: Farsley Callic v Matiock; Greria v Lincon Utd. Harrogue Town v Great
Harwoot: Netherheld v Eastwood Town, Stockbridge v Brigan: Trafford v Whitby, Whitey Bay
V Doyfeden; Witton v Braddoof Perk Avenue;
Workington v Buckin; Worksop v Astron Utd.
Market Pesseler Division: Astronust
Workington v Buckin; Worksop v Astron Utd.
Market Pesseler Divisions: Astronust
Market Pesseler Divisions: Astronust Workington v Buston; Worksop v Asson Uston Bustones Services of Derchester: Atherstone v Hestings: Bromsgrove v Cambridge City; Buston Ablon v Stringbourns; Createy v Forest Grean Pouter; Groupester v Kings Lynn; Greeky Rouers v Bath City; Merthyr Tydfii v Helsesoven Town; Rothwell v Worksster; Satisbury v Termiorits; St Leonards v Nuneston. Midland Division: St-Leonards v Nuneston. Midland Division: St-Leonards v Nuneston. Midland Division: St-

aorards v Nuneiton. Middlend Dhylation: Biton v Warwich; Corby v VS Rugby; Evesham
Paget; Gramham v Faunde; Rieston v Bracksy, Raddisch v Blakensit; Softul v Stursadge; Stafford v Shepahed; Sutton Coddied
i Hindkey Und; Webech v Berkworth Southm Division: Baldock v Yate; Bestey v Ionvolge; Cinderford v Derford; Cevedor v
klangste; Fasham v Weston-super-Mare; Fishr Aghletic v Newport AFC; Hiswart v Chemoseer. Newport foll? v Erith & Belvedere;
Troebridge v Fleet; Waterloville v Warney; Wey-

mouth v Cheimstard

FA, CARLESERG VASE Second qualifying reads: Essingson Collery v Pennith; Vistering-torr v FTM Newcaste; Shidon v West Alforman's Calle, Whistham v Stockers, Northellarion of Morpetin; Hytrope CA v Willington, Horden CM v Jamose; Billington i Rem v Serknood; Socialist v Pennith; Billington i Rem v Serknood; Socialist v Pennith; Billington i Rem v Serknood; Socialist v Pennith; Billington i Rem v Serknood; Socialist v Leek CSOS, Douelan Hyb School OB v Gassanougher Hardet Mein v Gerfort; Yorkshiv Asmiser Pennissis; Kinggows v Washington; South Shields v Google, Amount v Serknood; Socialist v Res Merchaster v Beronassis; Kinggows v Washington; Pennither Gerfort; Yorkshiv Asmiser Pennissis; Vandagows v Bacatt; Dev Northellard; Penk Merchaster, Beronassis; Vandagows v Bacatt; Colleres; Essi Merchassis v Create, Amount of Washington v Pennither, Harden Gerfort, Vandagows v Gastelan Gastnets; Nerthalaran v Streiteid; Penkusses; Scienterdale v Hallard; Brodscorth v Barsanough v Selbard; Leeth V Hallard; Brodscorth v Barsanough v Bersand; Nerthalard; Cando derlon v Rainsottit; Grandinope v Testination; Chedosomy Harman; Horden of Vandagows v Hallard; Chedosomy v Barsand; Cadoy v Barsand; Sandagows v Harman; Chedosomy v Barsand; Cadoy v Hallardscowsh Harman; Washington Mein; Chedosomy Harman; Washington Mein; Chedosomy Washington v Harman; Washington v Harman; Chedosomy Washington v Harman; Washington v Harman; Washington v Harman; Washington v Washington v Harman; Washington v Harman; Washington v Washington v Harman; Washington v Karington v Washington v Harman; Washington v Harman; Washington v Karington v Harman; Washington v Harman; Harman v Washington v Harma

Cray v Hame Bay; Erith Town v Beckenham Swaniey Furnesa v Lordswood; VCO Athielic Greenwich Borough; Whitstable v Crockenha UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Mile Cak v Pancahavan & Talacomba;

Satidean v Pagham. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divistore: Chippenham v Mangoshieki; Therton v Bristol Manor Ferm; Torrington v Taunton. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-mier Division; Density v Brigg; North Famby v Curzon Ashton; Casset Town v Mality.

Western Ashtert; Casett Town v Measte.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Citheron v Newcaste Your; Scotop v Atherion LR; Mossley v Warrington; Northick v Blackpool Flowers.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Bernerton Heath v Windown; Thiddharn v Lymington. JENSON WESSEX LEAGUE Bemerion Hash
v Winthorne; Thatchen v Lymington.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Heissad v Woodram; Histon v Bury Town;
Woodbridge v Diss.

LIHLSPORT LIMITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Prenier Division: Holbesch v Bustingtom Town;
Kempston v Cogsonos; Spetding v Stamford;
INTERLINK SIGNIESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE:
Boldmen v Kings Norton: Bridgnorth v Berweit;
Pershore v Shifmel.

ADMINITT INSURANCE WORTHERN LEAGUE

Pershord v Shifmal.

ARRIOTT INSTRANCE NORTH-BERN LEAGUE First Divisions Bedlington Terriers v Seaturn; Birtigham Synthonia v Guisborough; Dunston-Fig v Tow Lear, Murton v Durham.

SCOTTISH QUALIFYENG CUP Third retact North: Peterhead v Hurdy; Bigh v Lossiemunt; Deverondale v Buckler, Passerburgh v Fort Willem South: Annan v Coldstream; Vale of Laktern v Carl Sarvice Strollers; Whitehit Welfare v Seitht; Given v Edinburgh University.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGH-LAND LEAGUE: Broth Bargles v Forres Machanists; Clean-nacudin v Wick Academy.

Broth Rengers v Forner sectorator, Cebrinoculdin v Wick Academy.

LEAGUE OF WALLES: Comens Virge Non v Barry 2:301; Committe Dasy v Casense (2:301; Forner V Casense (2:301; Forner Casense (2:301

SUPER LEAGUE VISA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Quarter-finate: Brisbane v SI Halans (10:30em).

Rugby Union

CHINGO V Limes (20)
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE Pool At Bibby
Valle V Brockele (20), Pool Bt Montierend
Valle V Brockele (20), Pool Bt Montierend
V Montpellier (50), Newport v Sale (20), Pool
C. Dex v Stack Farspele (70); London Irian v
Farul Concentra. Pool Dt Connectit v Begine
fers Sports Ground, Galvey); New v Northampele
(70), Pool E. Colomiers v Bridgend; Grenoble v Richmond, Pool Pt Gloudester v Bediers;
Toulon V Pactors (70), Pool Cr Perplayer v BerToulon V Pactors (70), Pool Revenue (80),
Neeth v Susseam (80). NAME OF VICTORIAN PROMINENTS TWO: Bedicard Victorians of the Covering, South victorians of the Victorian Victorians of the Victorian Victorians of the Victorian Victo

Hartispoot: Out CIIP Second round: As-sontisti, Walestekt v Monetey.
RFU KNOCK-OUT CIIP Second round: As-paria v Widnes. Simingiam & Solfful v Otbry; paria v Widnes. Semingiam & Solfful v Otbry; paria v Widnessen v Sevenoties; Havant v Met-son; Hayleys & Hartogles. Lawes v North Cambarley. Kanda v Hartogles. Lawes v North Cambarley. Kanda v Hartogles. Lawes v North Cambarley. Kanda v Hartogles. Lawes v North Amerikam & Critery. Motey v Selly Celc North-ern v Tymedale; Nodinghem v Doncaster, Pu-sion Grasshoppers v Manchester, Rugby v Ston Grasshoppers v Manchester, Rugby v Vilegibrode John; Samdel v Norteeter, Printing v Vileg of Lune; St Nees v Bending; Steiner v Ben-bury; Southeridge v Taunton; Elecard v Rossyn-bury; Southeridge v Taunton; Elecard v Rossyn-ber v Liverpod St Halans; Wordeller v Liverpod Park v Liverpod St Halans; Wordeller v Liverda. Park v Liverpod St Halans; Wordeller v Liverda. delev WebPerk v Lherpool St Heiens, Workieter v Leeds,
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Divisions
Bedkenood v Portypool (20): Borgenen v AberBedkenood v Portypool (20): Bransen v Abersen (20): Caepthley v Interesty (20): Graek Rejesen (20): Caepthley v Interesty (20): AberNer (20): South Webes Police v Durham (20),
bridge (20): South Webes Police v Purkans
SMU LEAGUE TROPHY Group A: Curie v HeiseSMU LEAGUE TROPHY Group A: Curie v HeiseVellever, Cyricaldy v Preston Lodge; MagVellever, Switch (20): Sen (20): Se

Hockey

Speedway 7.30cm unless state VEN SHIELD First round, first leg: Brack Covertry: Bastbourne v Wolverheimblon

ER LEAGUE: Berwick v Oxforti (620)

uy kun. MBI, Meu's First Division: Covertry v Oxtord (730); Notingham v Md Sussex (80); Plymouth v Cerdiff (730); Richmond v Washninster (730), Stevenege v Softrul (80); Teeside v Guildord (750). ice hockey

SOXING: Surppost lights (Leeds, holder) v O klame

Tomorrow

Football HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF DIS-LAND Premier Division: St Patrick's Athletic v University College Dublin (230). SA CADI (28550) VASE Second contribute

Rugby League SUPER LEAGUE VISA WORLD CLUB CHAM-PIONSHIP Quarter-final: London Brancos v

Rugby Union HEINEREN CUP Pool C: Brive v Buth (110). Pool E: Celectoria v Pou (et McDiarred Park, Perh).

Hockey
NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Beeston v
Soutingte (20); Concaster v Reschig (20); East
Grinsted v Contentury (230); Guitclord v Hounstow (120); Old Loughtonians v Centrock (130);
Reddington v Berford Tigers (130) (at Broom
Read School), First Divisions Hampshed v Dicord Linkersky (1230); Heart v Grunster City
(Burnelly Rd. 20); Heart v Grunster City
(Burnelly Rd. 20); Heart v Grunster City; Indien Gymidenni v Burletins (230); Storiet
v Sufface (230); St Alberts v Oxford Hawles
(20); Stourport v Firebrands (230); WarringIon v Harleston Magglies (130). Hockey

Speedway CRAVEN SHELD First round, first leg: Postponed: Swindon v Belle Vue (re-sched-uled for Sunday 12 October). REVENGE CHALLENGE MEETING: Newport OPEN MEETINGS: Glesgow (630); Nowcas-

Basketball BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Creater v Trames Valley (530); Manchester v Lelcester (530); Shetfield v Worthing (50);

Ice hockey

BRITSH MATIONAL LEAGUE Kingston v
Study (530); Lancistine v Guidland (50); Paisley v Fric (630); Peterborough v Tailond (63). ATHLETICS: Great South Run (Portsmouth). SNOCKER: Regal Masters (Motherwell).

Future Hall of

Famers

MY VOTES

of all time to be enrolled in the International Hall Of Fame. You can vote only through Mirror Group newspapers or on the Internet at www.sporting-life.com. Watch out for voting chances on the dates below. Today, you can also vote for your favourite among today's players in a special category of Future Hall Of Famers. Shearer, Beckham, Wright, Seaman, Zola, Fowler,

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Ronaldo ... you've plenty to choose

vv no is today's greatest We are looking for the best players players. If you wish you may select The Independent, Future Hall of only one, but FOUR is the maxi- Fame, PO Box 6927, London E3

mum. Note down their code numbers and then call 0930 565 983. First of all, you will be asked to carry out a quick test to determine what type of phone you have. You will then be directed to enter your chosen player codes. At the end of the call, you will be asked to leave your name and address. Your votes

will be registered against your name. **VOTE NOW on:**

0930 565 983 If the player or players you wish ed 200 players who could all be up to vote for are not listed below, you for contention. All you have to do can vote for them by filling in the

3NZ. Postal entries must be received

by 8 November. Please note, you should use the form only if your selections are not listed below. If you have problems voting, call our helpline on 0990 800 283. You cannot register your vote on this line. Vote lines close on 9 November 1997. The Republic of Ireland number is 1550 123 311 (tone phones only).

Calls should last no more than 2 mins. 50p per minute at all times

Calls from Republic of Ireland cost

The players

Suart Parte Rance Gira Popesou **对影響與實際與實際的** Gazy McAllister Gica Popescu Michael Relziger **GOALKETPERS** Andy Moller Joso Pioto David Platt Robert Prosid Garmany Portogal Portugal Eire Australia Scotland Pat Bonner Mark Bosm Germany England Croatia Manhias Samo England.
Croatie
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Ere David Genola Mark Hughes Andy Garam Andreas Kepike Glaniuca Pagliuca England Scotland James Recionago Germany Frank Rijkaard Bryan Robson Erzo Scito Clarence Seedori Christian Ziege Madfielders Jurgen Klinsmann Patrick Kluivert Demetrio Albertin Aljosa Asanoric Dino Baggio Nick Barmby Peter Schmeich David Seamen **机物的现在形式的现在分词** italy Croatia italy England England England England Israel Croatia Lee Sharpe Paulo Sousa igor Kolyvanov Emil Kostadinov Brian Laudrup Michael Laudrup Peter Shillton Nevitle Southall Steve Stone Bordon Straction England Italy Spain Malj Le Tissier Jari Litmanen Roberto Mancini England Finland Water Zanga Andeni Zubizarie Andy Townsend Patrick Vieira **多种的一种种的** France England France David Backhan Diego Maradora Zinadhe Zidane Tony Adams Phillipe Albert Eyal Berkovic Zvonimir Boban England Belgium Ally McCoist Steve McMan FORWARDS England England Yugaslavia Holland England England Spain Baly Este John Aldridge Franco Baresi Slaven Billic Paul Merson Rennet Andersso Darren Anderton Pedrag Miljatovic Marc Overmars Jose Luis Caminem Stig Inge Bjornet Norway Faustino Asprilla Laurent Blanc Darmy Blind Beolio Carbone Jean-Pierre Papin Portugal Holland Holland Spain Belgium Brazil ibraham Ra Roberio Gaggio France Juan Antonio Pizzi Holland Spain Winston Bogarde Andreas Brehme Edgar Davids Ronald De Boer Karel Poborsky Czech Republic Florin Radiction Romania Gabriel Batistuta Jose Bebeto Geramoy England Brazil Sol Campbell wan de la Pena Patrik Benger Roberto Carlos Marc Degryse Fabrizio Ravanelli Dennis Bergkamp Oliver Bleshoff Ho#and Denilson Marcel Desailly Alessandin Costs धरती धरती France France Haly Gentrality Croate Sweden England Spain Portugal Argentina Alen Boksic Didler Deschamps Roberto Di Mineo Wales Spain Mexico Frank De Boer lan Rush 436 Tornas Brolin
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accommonay, 10 year period of cover, costs from £6.78.

Adams returns ready to play mind games

At the end of Euro 96, Tony Adams was a physical and emotional wreck. His personal life was ravaged by alcoholism and his career was threatened by a knee injury. Fourteen months on he is enjoying a renaissance.

Adams talked to our football correspondent about Arsenal's rise to the top of the Premiership, England's match in Rome. and his new outlook on life.

He may have given up the bottle, begun taking piano lessons and writing poetry, but Tony Adams still relishes a contest. The difference is that, following the awakening of his intellectual side, he is now prepared to engage in a mental duel as well as a physical one.

This change is quickly apparent in any interview situation. Adams just the way I did losing to Wrexwas never a enthusiastic subject, the criticism he received for his alcohol-fuelled indiscretions, and the cruel lampooning of his game, turned him against the media long ago. He remains hostile with all but his closest media confidants but, while once he reacted with brief. obvious answers, now he turns the interview into a contest, querying questions, questioning assumptions, looking, always, for the perceived traps. This is not entirely a bad thing as it does make the interviewer think carefully about the questions posed.

Asked for a "thumbnail sketch" of himself after training yesterday he says he "has not the intellect" to answer; asked if English players and teams tend to go for a win even when they only need a draw he says "You expect me to speak for every-

body?"; and asked how long it will take to regain his best form he pauses, perhaps thinking that answering will betray a belief that he is not at his best, slowly repeats the question, then answers, "Two weeks? Three or four years? In 10 years I'll be a The last question is valid. Hav-

a knee injury that, according to Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal man- now." ager, threatened his career, he has

returned at a crucial time for club and country. Today he captains the Premiership leaders against Barnsley at Highbury. Next Saturday, the day after his 31st birthday. he will lead England in Rome. A point will take England to France next summer and, injuries and form permitting, give Adams his first experience of the World Cup

Yet he has played only five games this season and has only represented England twice in the 13 months since Glenn Hoddle took over. On Tuesday he was among those at fault when PAOK Salonika scored the goal which ended Arsenal's Uefa Cup campaign. His form is a legitimate "matter of pub-

To be fair, he adds: "My form is fine - I'm working on it. My first game back was good, my second not so good. I always strive to play my best but players have high points and low points, that's only natural.

"I viewed losing to Salonika

BY GLENN **MOORE**

ham in the first round of the FA Cup in 1992. If you are going to get knocked out, you are better off doing it early on so you can concentrate on the other trophies. My worst one was losing in the semifinal to Tottenham [in 1991]. We had given all that energy only to fall at the final hurdle."

Today's game will be his 516th for Arsenal and, before his "change of life" (that is, giving up the booze) he might have found it difficult to get motivated. "In the past I might have thought 'it's only Barnsley' as it can go a bit flat after so many games. But I've realised it won't last for ever: one day the legs stop running. There are two ways to react, you can either hang up the boots or try and prolong it as long as possible. I am doing that, I am seizing the day. Having been ing been troubled for 18 months by sitting on my arse frustrated for a self as a player so it should help me year it's easy to roll up the sleeves

The change in approach at them. I don't now."

Arsenal under Wenger has helped. "It's lovely driving into work knowing there is no fear attached. You don't get put under pressure, it is

This does not reflect too well on the Highbury regimes of George Graham and, possibly, Bruce Rioch, though Adams added: "Some people still need a kick up the backside and there are other people on the staff that do that."

Adams used to do a fair bit of shouting himself but now he is more likely to have a quiet word. Either way he remains a significant figure at Highbury. "He is a big influence," Wenger said. "He is not just a good player but also a good team player. He is sensitive to what is going on and knows when there are problems on the field and outside. He does not report to me with them: he and the team can sort them out between them. There is a mutual respect in this team which I have not found before. Nor have I met a playет as mentally strong.

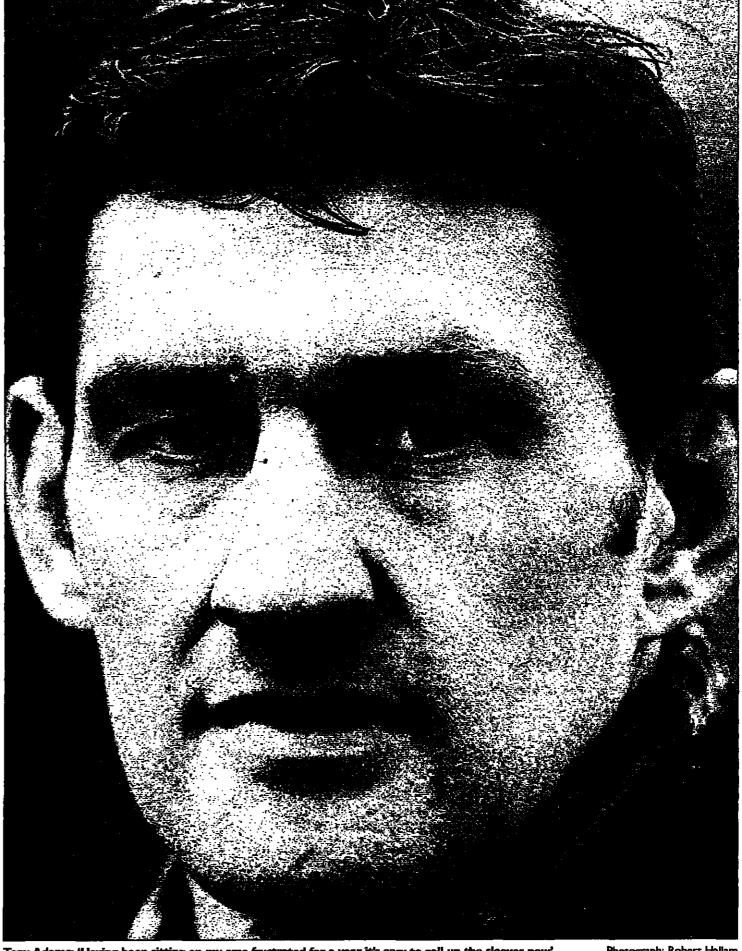
"He is at an important age, one when players think about life. He has decided to combat his problems and it has given him maturity."

And so to Rome for, in all likelihood, his 48th cap and 11th as captain. He has never lost as captain. "I don't count the penalties after the Germany semi-final. The game was 1-1. They'll be looking to win but so will we. If you look to draw you might lose, if look to win you

"We have always had passion. There is not a better country in the world for commitment and strength, but we now have brain and brawn. Terry gave us the knowledge and Glenn has added his own bits and pieces. Dennis Bergkamp said they always thought of the English as 'strong but stupid'.

"We have good young players here, there has been a blossoming of talent. We have tended to put foreign players on a pedestal, both players and media. Now, working with them day in and day out, we can see some are special but some are not. They are individuals, like us."

Adams has always reflected on his football but now does so in his life, "It helped me to look at myin my personal life," he said. "There are softer options and I used to take



Tony Adams: 'Having been sitting on my arse frustrated for a year it's easy to roll up the sleeves now'

Photograph: Robert Hallam

charges for

wior agains

e weekend

Boitot

Venables' rampant Socceroos stay unbeaten with Tunis triumph

Terry Venables' Australian side month's World Cup qualifying play-offs by strolling to a straightforward 3-0 win over Tunisia in a friendly in Tunis on Wednesday.

It was the Socceroos' 12th match without defeat since the former England manager took over as coach of the national team. He gave a full debut to the Leeds United midfielder Harry Kewell, who set up the third goal for Matthew Bingley. The other goals came hence the recall for Higuita. from Tenerife's

Aurelio Vidmar and Mark Viduka of Croatia Zagreb, who is back in favour after declining to play in the Oceania Zone qualifying games.

of five African nations who have already qualified for the finals, but they were well beaten by an Australian selection missing several regular players, including Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich and West Ham's Stan Lazaridis.

Venables' men face a two-leg play-off against still undecided Asian opponents for a place in France. Kevin Muscat, John Aloisi and Robbie Slater were other English-based players in his line-up.

The Colombians, who have already qualified for the World Cup finals, may have a familiar face in their team in France next summer. They have recalled the eccentric goalkeeper Rene Higuita after an 18-month absence for Wednes-

day's friendly in Norway. Higuita has been absent from the team since pulling out of the squad shortly before the start of the qualifying campaign early last year, claiming he was not fit tably that I should immediately enough for international football. score a first goal," Ravanelli said.

Since then he has been sacked by the Medellin club, Atletico Nacompleted their warm-up for next cional, for repeatedly missing training, while last year his house in Medellin was bombed by unidentified attackers; he was not at home at the time.

A move to the Mexican club, Veracruz, appears to have restored Higuita's form, despite his club's poor results. Farid Mondragon, his replacement in the Colombian side, has suffered a miserable run of form this year,

United States

This is a busy

weekend for the

former Everton

and Portsmouth

player, Predrag

Radosavljevic. The

Yugoslav born

midfielder is now a

naturalised citizen

of the United

States, and was

due to play for his

adopted country

in last night's

World Cup quali-



THE WORLD RUPERT METCALF

fier against Jamaica at the RFK stadium in Washington DC. Tonight his destination is the

Arrowhead stadium in Kansas City, where he will play for the Wizards against Colorado Rapids in the first round of the Major League Soccer play-offs. "It's tough. I'm going to have to find the energy for both games," the 34year-old said on Thursday.

Fabrizio Ravanelli will make his Marseilles debut at home to Toulouse tonight, but the Italian is unlikely to play the full 90 minutes. "We're not going to ask too much of him, because he's not at his peak physically." the coach, Rolland Courbis, said of his £5.35m signing from Middlesbrough.

"A lot is expected of me - no-

Home-grown players wounded Juventus as far as the scoreline was concerned on Wednesday night, but it was Manchester United's Scandinavian backbone night, but it was Manchester (Schmeichel, Berg, Johnsen, Solskjaer even) that stood firm against the Old Lady's wiles. Alex Ferguson clearly admires Norwegian and Danish footballers, who represent the best Norway's value pound for pound (partic-Jensen and Jan Molby) of our latest foreign imports.

There are more than 20 playing in the Premiership, and apparently plenty more where they came from. The young striker came from. The young striker Lasse Olsen has made such an export impact at the Norwegian Premier League side Stromsgodset that he is expected to play a pivotal part in the impending Norwegian Cup final against Valerengen, and his manager, Dag Vidar Kristoffersen, believes Olsen will eventually follow the Tors, Jans and Egils down that well-trodden

path to the English Premiership. However, British interest is also focused on another product of Norway's footballing expertise which is influential, versatile, and (in footballing terms at least) extremely cheap.

Certainly, £10,000 sounds a snip, but the catch is that it comes packed in a box, has a plug on the end, and goes by the very un-Norwegian name of Tacticus. In short, it is a computer system; not just any old computer system mind, but (according to the Norwegian Trade Council) "the most advanced and complete foot-

ball analysis tool on the market". A sense of objectivity is plainly called for, but it is a view endorsed by Kristoffersen, whose season in an effort to end their seesaw-like existence; the Cup finalists are also second in the Premier League, and Kristoffersen attributes much of their success to Tacticus.

Without getting too technical, the beauty of Tacticus - apparto analyse and edit a match both

video tape footballing



BLAIR

vidual player's viewpoint, and presents the information as easyto-understand statistics and claims player development is the biggest plus: "Show a player his mistakes rather than simply tell him he's making them, and there's more chance of him putting things right." He is even considering installing a television team began using the system this in the dressing-room and using the system at half-time.

The Norwegian national team has been using the system since the early 1990s, and the proof of that particular pudding is in the eating: Norway qualified for US.4 94 at England's expense. and for France 98 at a canter. But ently - is that it allows a manager if this system is all it is cracked up to be, why is it not top of the shopping list of the Fergusons

and Dalglishes of this world? Actually, it might well be. Many Premier League clubs apparently showed an interest when the system was presented on recent FA coaching courses, but do not want that interest made public, prompting a claim from Kristoffersen that "English clubs are like fortresses: they don't want to share anything".

He claims the Norwegians admire English football for its pace and basic skill, but reckon it lacks a lot in organisation. That is where he thinks Tacticus might prove its worth. The only club manager who will admit to using Tacticus is Crewe's Dario Gradi. Instead of having to flip through an entire tape using time code, he now has a sophisticated editing system that will record the game's key features and serve as concrete video evidence when he assesses a player's performance.

Tacticus is already used by the Swiss side Grasshopper and the Estonian national side (who must have a blank tape from their home game against Scotland). However, its popularity in this country will largely depend on English football's willingness to embrace new technology. Of course the purists will always prefer the beautiful game to remain a simple game rather than one over-burdened with facts, figures,

stats and systems. But Gradi denies that Tacticus is a substitute for good oldvideo graphics. Kristoffersen fashioned communication between player and manager. He stresses: "It's simply an aid, albeit the single most important coaching aid that I have. We used to have someone sit in the stands and monitor individual players. but this presents all the evidence in black and white, or better still, in colour."

Evidently, video use has its place in football, if not yet among the refereeing fraternity. Terry Venables' wife admits he studies videos avidly and often determines his tactics accordingly. The opposite, however, is true of Barry Fry who even admits he "doesn't do tacties"... and we all

Early signs of promise forever fading into pell-mell falls from grace

FAN'S

EYE

VIEW

No 226

WEST

BROMWICH

ALBION

PAUL

Sunday 7 September will have seemed to raise their game whenbeen struck by an unpleasant sense of impending doom. There, perched atop the Nationwide First Reading the previous Saturday afternoon which had extended their en games. We have been in this po-

due revival in the club's fortunes, it has always been the prelude to a series of disappointments, culminating in either relegation or loss of manager, by

otherwise. West Brom last topped the old Second Division in January 1989. Brian Talbot's team earning plaudits for their fluid, at-

mutual consent or

at home in the third round of the FA Cup. Exit Talbot.

Enter Bobby Gould, a pattern of play which relied solely on the long-distance kicking abilities of the centre-halves, and a boardroom policy of buying cheap and selling to the highest bidder. That resulted in relegation to the Third Division for the first time in the club's 100-plus year history.

A woefully misplaced sense of 1992-93 campaign, buoyed by the firm belief that the club was far too . tractual disputes with the club. grand to spend long in the company of such footballing minnows as Chester or Exeter. Gould had in-

A West Bromwich Albion sup- have a powerful psychological efporter surveying the Football fect on opponents. He was not League tables on the morning of wrong: every team in the division

ever the Albion visited. Come May, the side were anchored in mid-table and route Division were our team by virtue maps to Preston and all points of a dogged 1-0 home victory over north were being recycled. During the final game of the season, at Shrewsbury's Gay Meadow, a unbeaten start to the season to sev-group of fans paraded around the pitch carrying a coffin on sition before - rarely, granted - and which they had painted the words rather than signalling a long_over- "Bobby Gould RIP - Rot In Pig-

shit". Exit Gould. Ossie Ardiles led Albion back to the newly christened Football League Division One the next season and promptly resigned, to take over at Spurs. The club's last flirtation with promotion was in the winter of '95, a brief residency terminated by a run of 14 successive defeats. The latest spell on

the division's sumtacking football. A year on, they mit lasted a mere week. But it has had returned to the increasingly fa- since been followed by battling permiliar relegation dogfight and ca- formances against Swindon and pitulated to non-League Woking Reading, and the team has remained in the top three. Yet the

faithful remain sceptical. A pragmatic sort, the current manager, Ray Harford, has insisted that this side is not good enough to sustain a prolonged push for the Premiership. His reasoning may well be that his squad is acutely vulnerable, particularly as the only two members of it with genuine Premiership class, striker Paul Peschisolido optimism greeted the start of the and midfield playmaker Richard Sneekes, are still engaged in con-

He would, however, be justified in pointing to the fate of his predecessors, and firmly predicting that troduced a red away strip, a colour he sombrely announced would so borribly wrong very soon.

David Pleat received an ill-timed and damning broadside from one of his summer signings to increase the pressure on his regime at Sheffield Wednesday.

Phil Show considers Plear's chances for redemption against Everton today and looks forward to another decisive weekend in the Premiership, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the programme match by match.

French football makes differ- deepened the crisis surround- Under [Jean] Tigana at Monaent physical demands from the ing Hillsborough. game across the Channel, but is usually a faux pas in any language. By going public with criticism of David Pleat's regime on the eve of a match that could Sheffield Wednesday, Patrick Blondeau showed that he thought otherwise.

Wednesday today receive Everton, historically their bogey team, with Pleat's job looking none too secure following a 5-2 defeat by Derby in their last Premiership home game and the Coca-Cola Cup exit against Grimsby. Remarks attributed to Blondcau, a fullback who arrived from Monaco for £1.8m during the summer.

In an interview with L'Ekicking a man when he is down quipe, the French international was quoted as expressing "regret" at choosing a club in a "dark, industrial city" and a Wednesday issued a statement team whose style he could not decide his future as manager of fathom. Professing ignorance about Sheffield and the English game, he explained that he thought he was joining the new Arsenal or Chelsea.

"I wondered if suddenly I'd become a bad player," said Blondeau, "Tactically, nothing made sense. If it continues, I'll lose all my football skills."

Perhaps more damningly, he bemoaned a lack of discipline at Hillsborough. "We work a lot less in training than in France, which is not very professional.

co, if we were told to arrive at 8am, we didn't come in at 8.05. Here you can arrive at 8.30 and no one says anything." Last night, however,

claiming Blondcau was misquoted and the article "turned on his head to discredit Wednesday and its staff". In mitigation of Pleat, he has

been without the spine of his side and can point to the success of Benito Carbone and Paolo Di Canio. Carbone has spoken of how highly he rates Pleat and his coach, Peter Shreeves, as strategists, yet the bottom line could be reached Wednesday fail again.

Blondeau is suspended today, but several compatriots

bearpit, notably another ex- led 2-0 with six minutes left. Monaco man, Arsene Wenger, though even his progress is not

without pitfalls. Like a Faustian pact in reverse, Arsenal bave liberated themselves from the darker forces that drove the George Graham era, only to find there is a price to pay for regaining their soul. "One-nil to Arsenal" became an ironic anthem; now. giving hope to Barnsley today. even 2-0 is often insufficient to finish off inferior opposition.

PAOK Saonika and Eventon are the latest sides to benefit from this lack of ruthlessness. The trait was evident when they let a lead slip to a Leeds team bereft of goals under Graham. And it resurfaced in the 3-3

First Division

Sunderland (r) Middlesbrough (r)

Man City

Average Nationwide League gates

(Figures for August and September)

continue to thrive in the British draw at Leicester after Arsenal One problem, acknowl-

edged by Wenger, is that the creative onus falls almost exclusively on Dennis Bergkamp. So "all" that opponents need do is stifle the Dutchman or ensure the game is staged somewhere that necessitates flying. Unfortunately for Barnsley. contesting points with the Gunners for the first time in 82 years, this one is at Highbury.

Just as the Yorkshire side may feel the backlash from Arsenal's Greek travesty, Crystal Palace would be ill-advised to place too much faith in Manchester United's being drained by the triumph over Juventus. United at last appear to be learning how to handle the

+59.4 -0.3 +2.2

\$1,983

27,678

League, one of which is the anticlimactic return to domestic fare. In fact, Palace had to endure extra time in midweek, not to mention a confidencesapping failure to overcome a Hull side lying second from the foot of the Third Division.

The last time they met United, Eric Cantona went over the top, in every sense. After the blow of losing his successor as captain, Roy Keane, to another act of folly, Alex Ferguson might settle for an injury-free, controversy-less afternoon as long as it produces three points.

Two more of the successful European combatants tangle tomorrow, when Chelsea will be striving to avenge a 5-1 de-

pressures of the Champions' feat at Liverpool a year ago and the home team to atone for the 4-2 FA Cup capitulation which signalled the beginning of the end for John Barnes.

Newcastle, with whom Barnes is enjoying an Indian summer, may suffer more from the after-effects of Continental action. Having slogged back from Ukraine they tackle Spurs, who lost 7-1 on their last visit.

the match with less trepidation now that Kenny Dalglish is the one with hardly a fit striker to his name. Meanwhile, those ghouls who placed bets on the first Premiership manager to part company with his club will have noted that Francis and Pleat are scheduled to do battle in the next round of games.



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Arsenal v Barnsley



Arsenal could be without winger Marc Overmars, who was taken off in the second half of the 1-1 draw with PAOK Salonika which led to the Gunners' exit from the Uefa Cup. The Dutchman will have a late fitness test on an ankle injury. Luis Boa Morte may make his first start since his £2.5m move from Sporting Lisbon in the summer but French striker Nicolas Anelka is also an option after scoring a hat-trick for the reserves on Wednesday.

Barnsley manager Danny Wilson has injury problems in his defence. Peter Shirtliff is definitely out with a hamstring injury, while Matt Appleby (hamstring) and Adie Moses (ankle) are very doubtful, which could mean a debut for 19-year-old Chris Morgan. Fellow defenders Nicky Eaden and Neil Thompson have also had recent injury problems, but both are included in the squad after they came through 45 minutes in the reserves in midweek. Striker John Hendrie will be out for 10 days with his hamstring problem following advice from a specialist, while Jovo Bosancic is out with a thigh injury.



Bolton v Aston Villa



Bolton manager Colin Todd will give new record signing Dean Holdsworth his debut alongside Peter Beardsley. Leading goalscorer Nathan Blake is suspended for three matches after being sent off against Manchester United a fortnight ago. Todd has major injury problems in his defence. The South African Mark Fish had fluid drained from his knee last weekend and will not be fit until Monday. Fullback Neil Cox is still undergoing treatment for a hamstring injury. Robbie Elliott is out for the season with a double leg fracture, and Chris Fairclough is unlikely to be back for two months with a knee

Aston Villa will give a fitness test to Mark Draper. The former Leicester playmaker missed the midweek Uefa Cup win over Bordeaux with a hamstring strain. Brian Little will also have to decide whether to start with all three strikers - Stan Collymore, Dwight Yorke and Savo Milosevic - although Yorke is still carrying a groin strain and



Coventry v Leeds

The Coventry goalkeeper Steve Ogrzovic will set a new club record of 488 league appearances today while Coventry manager Gordon Strachan may give his 18-year-old son Gavin a debut in Premiership football. Strachan Snr has eight players either unavailable or doubtful for today. Paul Williams is serving a three-match suspension, while Marcus Hall (twisted knee), Roland Nilsson (knee), John Salako (hamstring), Paul Teffer (ankle), Martin Johansen (knee), Darren Huckerby (ankle) and Noel Whelan (ankle) are all injured. Strikers Andy Ducros and Simon Haworth have been called into the squad.

Leeds, who lost 2-1 to Bristol City in midweek, but won the tie 4-3 on aggregate, will be without 19-year-old Australian midfielder Harry Kewell, who is suspended after being sent off for two bookable offences in last month's 4-3 win over Blackburn. The Portuguese midfielder, Bruno Ribeiro, and defender David Robertson are both doubtful, suffering from the effects of a virus. George Graham's side are looking for their third consecutive Premiership win.



Man Utd v C Palace

Roy Keane is out for the rest of the season with a ruptured cruciate knee ligament. Nicky Butt (undiagnosed headaches and sickness) and striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (thigh strain) were both substituted in the 3-2 midweek win over Juventus and both are doubtful for today. Striker Andy Cole is also injured. Paul Scholes looks certain to start in midfeld, alongside Ronny Johnsen. The Czech winger Karel Poborsky is away on international duty. Defender David May

is in the squad after recovery from a pre-season groin injury. Attilio Lombardo will play for Palace having been out with a thigh injury. His comeback will be a boost for Palace following their Coca-Cola Cup exit against Third Division strugglers Hull in midweek. Andy Roberts and Bruce Dyer face late fitness tests. Defender Marc Edworthy still has a knee problem but is expected to be fit. Midfielder Simon Rodger is fit, but reserve goalkeeper Carlo Nash is out with cracked ribs and his place on the substitutes' bench will be taken by South African youngster Gareth Ormshaw.



Newcastle v Tottenham

Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla is expected to be out for four to six weeks after an operation on his lower stornach (for a groin injury) on Thursday. Midfilder Rob Lee is doubtful for today and may also be unavailable for England's match with Italy next week. Alessandro Pistone is unlikely to be in the Magpies' squad after suffering a foot injury in the 1-0 defeat at Chelsea last week. Stuart

Pearce has an outside chance of playing for the first time since Au-Tottenham's own injury crisis is clearing and Les Ferdinand will return to St James' Park partnering Chris Armstrong in attack. The centre-backs Ramon Vega. John Scales and Gary Mabbutt are all fit again, giving manager Gerry Francis selection options at the back. Norwegian front-man Steffen Iversen will be out for another month with an ankle injury Ferdinand and the Frenchman, David Ginola, were both playing for the home side when the Magnies beat Tottenham 7-1 last December, and will be seeking a reversal of for-

... And statistics

Sunderland see the light

If you want to get ahead, get a new stadium. That would appear to be the conclusion to be drawn from attendence figures for the first two months of the season. The statistics show increases at most clubs, but particularly at those which have moved recently into new homes. The most spectacular rise is that of Sunderland, who suffered the skeeppolument of relegation from the Premiership in May and have hardly set the First Division alight this season.

However, the Wearside club's farts have clearly relisted the move to their peer Stantam of Light, Sunderland's average gate this season after five Appen matches is \$1,383, an increase of nearly 60 per cent on the Premiership average at Roker Park last stason. Elsewhere in the First Division Middlesbrough, also relegated in the summer, have continued to draw capacity crowds to their new Riverside Stadium. Automotances are also up at Stoke (thanks fargely to a big crowd for the fast game at the Britannia Stadium), Huddensteld, Northernoton and

Glester, who have all moved into new grounds in recent years. The only problem for Premiership clubs in their modernised all-seated stadions is that making are unable to meet demands for fickets. Goly fiveare operating at less than 15 per cent of their expectly. rebellion work. Another major reason for the signt drop in Premieration

amendances is that make of the three promoted clubs, Bolton, Banssley and Crystal Palace: are the to match, Middlesbrough, who regularly file liner 30,000 capacity strongs in the top flight, last season.





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Sheff Wed v Everton

Sheffield Wednesday's central defender Des Walker is doubtful due " to a virus. Walker, who struggled through the midweek Coca-Cola Cup game against Grimsby, is currently on a course of antibiotics and will seek a doctor's advice on whether he will be fit enough to play Manager David Pleat is still also without Jon Newsome, Graham Hyde, Andy Booth and Peter Atherton through injury, while Patrick Blondeau is suspended. Wednesday are looking for only their second win of the season, but if they achieve it they will leapfrog today's opponents and move out of the relegation zone.

Duncan Ferguson will miss his third successive match for Everton with calf problems. Everton's manager Howard Kendall is likely to add Craig Short to his squad if there is no reaction to his groin problem after training yesterday. Danny Williamson is fit again and returns, while a late decision will be made on midfielder Tony Grant, who injured an ankle in the 5-0 midweek Coca-Cola Cup win over Scunthorpe.



Southampton v West Ham

Southampton manager Dave Jones will have a fully fit squad to choose from for the first time this season. Norwegian striker Egil Ostenstad (ankle) has recovered and Matt Le Tissier (harnstring) proved he is fully fit by scoring twice on Wednesday as Saints beat Brentford 2-0 in the Coca-cola cup. Defender Ken Monkou may return after a groin injury, and midfielder Robbie Slater is back from international duty with Australia. Defenders Jason Dodd, Alan Neilson and Simon Charlton are all in contention, after shaking off ankle injuries, as are Claus Lundekvam and Richard Dryden; recovered

from knee problems sustained in midweek. Transfer-listed West Ham striker lain Dowie is certain to play against his former club, but midfielder lan Bishop, also on the transfer list, is likely to be on the bench. Paul Kitson, Stan Lazaridis and John Moncur are all injured, while another former Saint, defender Richard Hall, is sidelined long-term with a knee injury. Julian Dicks is also out indefinitely, while on-loan striker lan Moore will be on the bench.



Wimbledon v Blackburn

Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear made eight changes from the team which drew 0-0 at Tottenham last week for the 4-1 midweek Coca-Cola Cup win at Millwall. He should revert to last Saturday's side for today's game. Midfielder Neal Ardley is still suffering from a knee injury and Marcus Gayle is also struggling to be fit, while Robbie Earle is on international duty with Jamaica. Jon Goodman will undergo a cruciate ligament operation on his knee and will miss the

remainder of the season. Blackburn's England winger Stuart Ripley is nearing full recovery from his hamstring injury but manager Roy Hodgson will not risk him today. Chris Coleman has played two games in his comeback after rupturing his Achilles tendon a year ago but Hodgson also wants to give him more time to recover. The defender Marlon Broomes is still out with his knee ligament problem while full-back Patrick Valery begins a three-match suspension.

Liverpool v Chelsea

Liverpool will still be without defenders Mark Wright and Dominic Matteo for tomorrow's game. Three players who are recovering from injuries, Neil Ruddock, Jamie Redknapp and Oyvind Leonhardsen, are all still short of match fitness and unlikely to play. It is likely that they will play in further reserve matches before a possible return in the Merseyside derby on 18 October. There have been no further injury problems following the game against Celtic in midweek and it is likely that Liverpool will be unchanged with the possible

exception of Michael Thomas returning in midfield. Gianfranco Zola and Mark Hughes are likely to return for Chelsea. The pair were rested in Thursday's Cup Winners' Cup win at Slovan Bratislava but seem likely to replace Gianluca Vialli and Tore Andre Flo up front. Michael Duberry could play, as a suspected ankle fracture turned out to be less serious and he has re-started training, Franck Leboeuf is suspended. The Nigerian Celestine Babayaro, a substitute on Thursday, is in the squad.

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Football attendances are on course to reach their highest levels for 18 years. As Paul Newman reports, the latest boom has been fuelled entirely by clubs outside the **Premiership**

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The financial gap between the haves and have-nots may still be widening, but football's everrising profile at the highest level is having a beneficial effect throughout the game.

Contrary to a widespread course to reach a season's total

First Division attendances

League attendances

view that public interest has of 24.5 million, an increase of been focusing on the FA Carling Premiership at the expense of other areas of the game, the rise in attendances this season is down entirely to the Nationwide League.

On the evidence of the season so far, the professional game in England and Wales is poised to enjoy its biggest percentage increase in league gates for 40 years.

With 20 per cent of the season's league matches played, attendance figures for the Premiership and Nationwide League show that gates are on

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

77/8 79/80 81/2 83/4 85/6 87/8 89/90 91/2 93/4 95/6 97/8

1.7m on last year and the highest figure for 18 years.

The figures, compiled exclusively for the Independent, show that the Nationwide League is set to welcome through its turnstiles its highest number of supporters for more than a quarter of a century.

Premiership gates are marginally down on last year, but the Nationwide League First Division is heading for a total attendance of 8.4m, which would be the highest since the 1959-60 season and an increase of more than 20 per cent on last year. Only 12 years ago, the total for the Second Division (now the First Division) was 3.6m, less than half this season's projected

While the three clubs relecated from the Premiership -Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest - have provided a significant boost to First Division attendances, other clubs are showing significant increases, with 18 of the division's 24 clubs enjoying higher gates. In the Second Division 19 of the 24 clubs are showing an increase, as are 14 of the Third Division's 24 members.

The figures buck other major trends in the game, which have seen more and more emphasis placed on the Premiership. This year's annual report by Deloitte & Touche showed that the financial gap between the Premier League and Nationwide League has continued to widen with the Premier League now accounting for two thirds of the game's revenue. Combined with the "Bosman" ruling, which has cut the amount of transfer fees going into the lower divisions, this appeared to spell doom for smaller clubs, but the attendance figures will give encouragement.

Although outside factors may have had an influence – the feel-good factor since the election, extra cash in pockets helped by the recruitment of



Fans at Sunderland's new Stadium of Light. The Wearside club have the best support outside the Premiership, with their gates up this season by nearly 60 per cent to an average of 31,983. Last season in the Premiership they averaged 20,067

tions, and even the Indian summer - these are unlikely to account for the majority of the increase. The game's growing popularity stems largely from the Premiership's rising profile,

thanks to television money.

Part of the reason for the increase in Nationwide League gates is undoubtedly the diffitickets for Premiership matches: 10 of the Premiership's 20 clubs factor of all. A post-war low total

Clubs have also been making reached in the 1985-86 season, capacities, gates have steadily great efforts with community schemes, family spectator areas and offers of cheap tickets, culty many fans find in buying while the decline of hooliganism has probably been the biggest

summers in the game's history with the Heysel Stadium disaster and the Bradford fire.

Although the switch to all-seat stadiums in the wake of Attendance details, page 25

TALE OF THE TAPE

thanks to building society flota- many of the world's best players consistently fill their grounds. attendance figure of 16.5m was the Taylor Report has restricted which followed one of the worst risen as hooliganism has declined and grounds have become safer and more comfortable.

Research by Brian Sears

Lewis primed for risk game against unpredictable Pole

Tonight's heavyweight title fight between the champion Lennox Lewis and the controversial contender Andrzej Golota has the makings of a classic encounter where anything could happen. Glyn Leach, in Atlantic City, weighs up the odds.

An air of tension cuts through the pall of humidity engulfing the New Jersey coastal gaming Gomorrah of Atlantic City where, at around midnight tonight local time, Lennox

Lewis and Andrzej Golota will ing Council heavyweight title, a prize in name only.

This is one of those increasingly rare fights that is so compelling, so competitive and potentially explosive that it needs no sanction. For both contestants, this fight is about pride, about erasing the mistakes of the past and earning the right to a future. Tonight's fight has the makings of a classic heavyweight encounter.

The consensus is that when these two big punchers step into

The contestants are of dissimilar character, yet evenly matched. Both stand close to caused his premature exit.

6ft 5in, at Thursday's weigh-in lock horns over the World Box- they both scaled 17st 6lb. They have 25 knock-outs each, the placid Lewis from 32 fights (one defeat), the aggressive Golota from 30 fights (two defeats, both by disqualification), and are medalists from the 1988 Seoul Olympics (Lewis, gold at super heavy; Golota, bronze at heavyweight).

This will be Lewis's seventh world title fight, whereas his former sparring partner's previous biggest encounters were the brace of disqualification defeats against the former champthe ring, anything could happen. ion, Riddick Bowe, last year, where Golota led on the scorecards before repeated low blows

For Lewis, 32, a dramatic, re-Lewis is still remembered as the complacent fighter stopped in two rounds by Oliver McCall in September 1994 rather than the dreadnought who forced McCall to quit in their rematch. Lewis's first defence of his second reign found Henry Akinwande easily discouraged and, like McCall, his challenge terminated in round five.

Certainly, Lewis is underrated and under-valued in the USA. But is Golota over-rated? Has the continuing clamour for a white heavyweight champion blinded the Pole's new found army of admirers? Doubts about Golota, 29,

centre primarily on his ability to trouble Lewis: jabbing and sounding win must be the aim. stay legal under pressure. But body-punching. But Lewis's atdid his otherwise impressive performances against Bowe flatter to deceive? Bowe was ing right hand. overweight and under-prepared for their first fight, and came in weakened for the second. But

> ish him off. Indeed, Bowe felled Golota in the second fight. However, Golota maybe a more complete all-rounder than Lewis. Certainly he is the more natural fighter. Lewis is a born which time Golota should be dehis sport, but Golota is a hardened streetfighter "gone legit". has fast hands and an excellent command of techniques that know he has been in a battle.

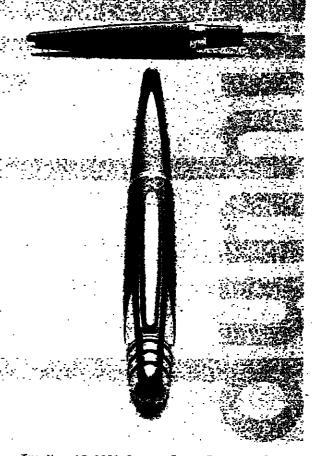
in neither fight could Golota fin-

tributes could be the key to this fight: his own jab and his crush-Each fighter will seek to

take control quickly and each will take and push the other back, which could result in an ugly, mauling fight. But, under these circumstances, the stronger fighter should prevail and that man, I believe, is Lewis, once again around the fifth, by athlete who selected boxing as moralised enough either to be taken or, once again, to foul his way out of the fight. But the Pole Golota is hardly unskilled. He will be dangerous for as long as he is in there and Lewis will

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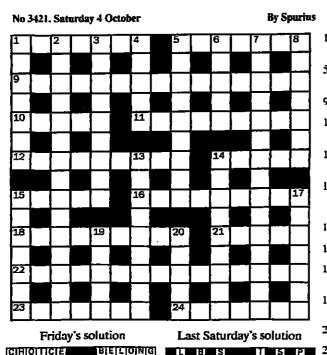
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- A person of doubtful character removes piano faster (7) Roof worker's a doctor. but turned in another di-
- rection (7) Backing military operation? (9, 6)
 One of the chamber music items evoked by the
- old parrot-cry? (5)
 11 Ebullient Texan playing around over in Germany (9) 12 Mistake is concealed by the management initially using intimidatory tactics
- 14 Quarrel witnessed by audience (5)
- 15 Cruise northwards, get-ting caught in storm (5) Record shows caretake originally involved in mis-use of chlorine (9)
- 18 O-ospreys, for instance, a pair seemingly inseparable (4-5)
 21 Feature of game in which two packs are used? (5)
- They'll be getting ready to fight (9, 6)
 Go before being caught in deeper entanglement (7)
 Insult making old fellow take part in due!? (7)

Look left as you reach De

DOWN

- Gaulle (7) Prose and poetry identified by detailed reference? (7, 3, 5)
- Where some go for a walk if tensed up? (9) Discontinue feature of Latin grammar having in troduced English (5) Identification's carried by traditional performer
- representing bardic iream-time (9) Place for statue in one church in New England
- A moving series of drawings (8, 7) Recess in which meal's taken? (7)
- 13 Corporal staggering around in a trance (9) Type that's ultimately innocuous, in fairness, when drunk (9) 15 Herring fillet and bread
- taken by politician with nothing to eat (7) Means to move southeastwards in a body (2.5)
- Note reverberating up-wards to some extent (5) Authority finding extracts from essays obscene (3-2)

INSIDE . . .

'My first game back was good, my second not so good. I always strive to play my best but players have high points and low points, that's only natural'

Tony Adams talks to Glenn Moore about his renaissance - Page 24

IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE SPORTS SECTION



'My skin needs the sunshine. The sun was always shining when I grew up in France. I find it rives me energy' David Ginola tells Adam Szreter what makes him tick.

Plus: reports on all the weekend's Premiership football action, rugby union's European Cup and Richard

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YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING



It doesn't sound too good: Many people buy extended warranties although the chance of an appliance breaking down in the four years after the free one-year period is remote

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

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Are extra guarantees money down the drain?

Tales of "Dishwasher Repair Man Number Fifteen" are a gift to those selling extended warranties that guarantee "peace of mind" in the event of breakdown.

Rachel Fosen investigates whether these products are really worth the money or whether consumers are unwittingly buying policies that are overpriced, oversold and overrated.

We've all heard the story. The appliance blows up and the repair man comes round. He sucks his teeth, warns it will need a new part and departs 15 minutes later, having extracted his £45 call-out fee. Three weeks later, the machine is still on the blink, the kids are wearing yesterday's dirty underwear and the house is full of damp, handwashed clothes.

Apocryphal? Perhaps not. What is clear though is that television consumer programmes often unwittingly heighten fears that household appliances will break down, making the packaged insurance that electrical retailers are so eager to sell with your new product look particularly attractive.

Mark-ups on the policies are often higher than those on the appliances themselves. These insurance policies could become an even more significant money-spinner for retailers next year if margins on white goods become slimmer still. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has proposed that the recommended retail price system on white and brown goods be scrapped. White goods include dishwashers and fridges classed as brown goods.

Consumer groups have warned that exa bad deal. The Consumers' Association er, but if the in-store salesman has already

has branded the policies "overpriced, oversold and overrated".

Earlier this year the Office of Fair Trading said although the cost of extended warranties on electrical goods had fallen since its investigation three years ago, the policies were still poor value.

"In most cases extended warranties are still significantly more expensive than the likely cost of repairs over the warranty period," said John Bridgeman, Director General of Pair Trading.

Retailers' warranties may be even worse value in the wake of changes in the Conservative government's last Budget in November 1996. The Chancellor announced that henceforth, insurance premium tax; which normally adds 4 per cent to the cost of a policy, would rise to 17.5 per cent in

the case of warranties sold by retailers. Although most retailers said they would absorb these extra taxes within the existing price of the warranties, it is difficult for shoppers to judge whether this has taken place. Moreover, if true, it also gives an indicator to the extent of the profits which whereas televisions and camcorders are some retailers made from the sale of this

Manufacturers' warranties can be tended warranties sold by retailers can be cheaper than those offered by the retail-

late to take advantage of them.

Just how likely is it that your cooker will leave you in the lurch, packing up just before a dinner party and leaving you with a hefty repair bill? Not very, according to research by the Consumers' Association. It found there was a one-in-six chance that even the least reliable type of appliance would break down more than once in the four years following the free one-year guar-

antee period. TSB, which offers its own appliance repair insurance, says average claim values on domestic appliances are between £70 and £150. Products which use water and have moving parts - washer/dryers and dishwashers - are the most likely to go wrong. Most reliable are fridges, cookers and televisions.

Some products, particularly if they get heavy use, might be worth insuring. Retailer Curry's charges between £149 and £199 for a five-year warranty on a washing machine. At rival Comet, a five-year warranty costs £169.99 on a £300 washing machine.

Comet has introduced cashback warranties, where the retailer promises to refund the price of the warranty at the end of the period as long as no claims have been made. But you have to be on the ball to get your money back, remembering not only

got you to sign on the dotted line, it is too to register the warranty at the beginning of the period, but also to apply for the rebate within a month when the five-year period is up.

Extended warranties often cover the first year of a product's life. This can be wasted because any faults are likely to be covered by the manufacturer's guarantee. Domestic appliance insurance can be a

simpler, and cheaper, way of protecting yourself against the expense of possible breakdowns. Apart from TSB, Norwich Union and Midland offer policies.

A TSB policy may be taken out when the appliance is new, but premiums only become payable once the manufacturer's guarantee runs out. Also, the premiums are paid monthly, rather than up front. A washing machine costs £1.78 a month to insure in the first year after the guarantee expires, then £4.57 a month for the next three years.

Midland will insure up to 17 appliances for £11 a mouth. Norwich Union's policy charges start at £6.99 a month. Check whether the policy offers a new machine if the old one is a write off, whether there's an emergency claim line and whether the insurer arranges and pays for the repair.

Midland: phone 0800 299 399; Norwich Union: phone 0800 888777

3/ANDREW VERITY

Spying on your health

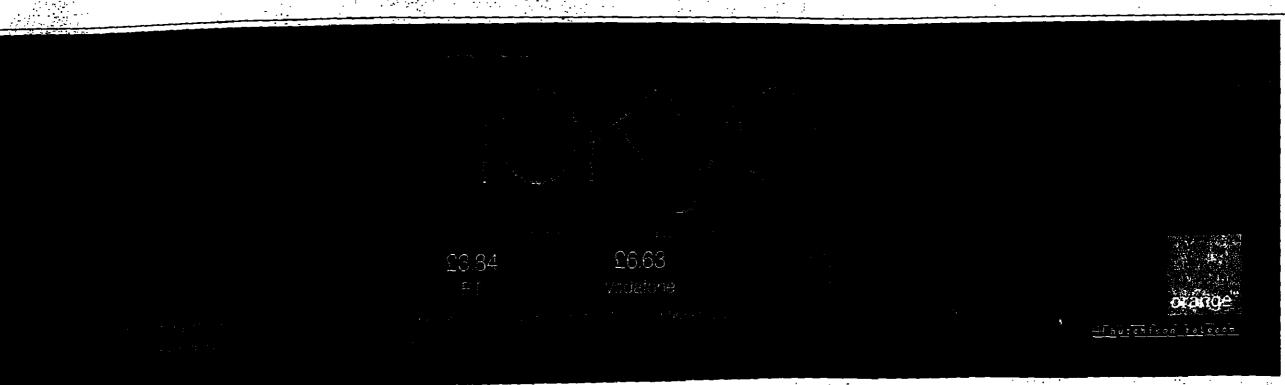
5/IONATHAN DAVIS

Samuelson's comeback

9/PENNY IACKSON Trading up to real money

eat officially, 10 year period of cover, costs from £6.78.

12/GAVIN GREEN The Porsche I love



Prices and savings are based on cheapest standard network recommended international call rates, excluding discount or optional schemes and promotional offers. A deposit may be required for any of these operators. For full details of the Orange international call service please phone Orange direct on 0800 80 10 80 or visit our web site at www.orange.co.uk

SATU 4 OC

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in anger" conversations. These are the type where the person you are speaking to makes out that you have made a mistake but it was only to be expected.

Such a conversation took hosted this week by the Association of British Insurers, the industry trade body.

A Scottish Amicable executive came to my table to take issue with the scathing comments in this column Bond, a fund which mimics the performance of the FTSE 100 share index. The column referred to the extremely heavy charges levied on the Bonus Bond, which are far in excess of those made for investors who put their money into similar tracker PEPs offered by, say, Legal & General and Gartmore.

The bond is only available to ScotAm policyholders who receive a payout as part of the company's takeover by Prudential. "Well, of course, you must understand that the likely payout to policyholders is likely to be far less than minimum payments accepted by the Gartmore and L&G schemes," was the gist of his sortowful comments.

He is both right and wrong. The minimum contribution to be all about, the least they into L&G and Gartmore is greater than the average of £550 to be paid to policyholders. But both those companies have confirmed they are happy to accept smaller regular premiums which cease

after one or two months. More important is another feature of the Bonus Bond. Here at The Independent, we ransacked our files to find the

Looking back in anger

I hate "more in sorrow than original press release announcing details of this bond.

We couldn't find one. ScotAm tells me that it didn't send one out because it chose to direct mail only its million-odd policyholders with the details instead. It place at an awards ceremony claims it didn't want to be inundated by applications from non-members. As if.

Even more interesting is

the fact that ScotAm deals almost solely with independent financial advisers. To get round the problem of advisabout the company's Bonus ers complaining that it was poaching their clients, Scot-Am has paid 3 per cent commission to advisers for every customer who responded to the bond, whether the IFA gave advice on it or not. In other words, an adviser with, say, 20 ScotAm clients all receiving the average £550 payout would receive £330 for doing sod all. In fact, many advisers will have scores of such clients: their commission will rise commensurately. That may explain why IFAs were not exactly raring to condemn the company for its lacklustre product.

I offer this story as a parable of the financial services industry today. If its members want to "honour" journalists, as this week's shindig in London was meant should do is not to presume

on our stupidity. It is still not too late for ScotAm and Prudential, its ultimate owner, to apologise for what appears to be a case of sharp practice.

They should also offer their money back to any aggrieved policyholder. And I write this more in anger than in sorrow.

MONEY MAKEOVER

Comfortable enough to enjoy retirement

Name: Edward Johnson

Age: 74 Occupation: Retired research'

chemist The problem: When Mr Johnson retired nine years ago, he gave half of his retirement lump sum to his wife to invest as she pleased. She chose to invest in a balanced portfolio of unit trusts, PEPs, National Savings

bonds and deposit accounts. Mr Johnson invested his capital in a portfolio managed by Nat West. He invested £60,000 in 1988 and even though he withdrew £5,000 in 1996, the portfolio is worth only £69,000 (£45,000 in shares and £24,000 in PEPs). He is concerned that the portfolio is not performing well. While he received £586 in income in the past six months, the capital value fell by £1,544. Mr Johnson has an annual index-linked pension of £15,000 and he and his wife have full state pensions. They live comfortably on this income and so the provision of extra income from investments is not so important.

The Johnsons also have £4,000 in a current account earning no inter- more money in the future he can alest. Mr Johnson wants to make the most of his available capital, living comfortably and leaving some of the couple's assets to their two sons. The adviser: Julie Lord, managing director of Cavendish Financial Management, Summit House, Windsor Place, Cardiff (01222 665588). She is also chairman of the Institute of Financial Planning, the professional body for financial planners.

The advice: Mr Johnson's portfolio should be redesigned to concentrate on growth only. If he needs

ways sell shares or units to provide funds. This will allow him to make rent account. use of his Capital Gains Tax (CGT) allowance of £6,500 per year to ob-

tain tax-free growth. This may not be necessary as he already has £19,000 in deposit/current accounts and does not see the need for large cash sums except for holidays which are planned in advance. Four thousand pounds is too much to keep in a current account. I recommend that part of this capital is reinvested when his portfolio

is reviewed. The balance could be so that any returns they do receive placed in a high-interest paying cur-

I suggest the Johnsons co-ordinate their portfolios a little more closely. Mr Johnson's portfolio is too small to be invested in direct equities and there seems little value in paying annual management fees for only a small number of different holdings which are changed infrequently. Better value and performance might be achieved by consolidation.

PEP allowances should be maximised for both of them before 1999

Edward lohnson wants to make the tax liability on their estate is apmost of his available capital so he and his live in comfort and leave

Photograph:

Mr Johnson asked about the suit-

ability of tracker fund investments.

inappropriate for part of his portfo-

lio, but I would caution him about be-

them will remain financially secure for the rest of their lives. The only other event that could destroy the Johnsons' long-term fiin the future are tax free. Deposits nancial security would be if they reshould form the foundation of the quired nursing care. This can cost la. overall portfolio, with well-perbetween £18,000 and £25,000 a year forming, consistent unit and investeach and would affect their available ment trusts generating the growth.

their estate to their sons rather than

to the taxman. Their house is worth

£160,000 and total assets £322,000

They have left everything to each oth-

er in their wills and so the inheritance

proximately £43,000. Both have nil

rate bands of £215,000. Rewriting their wills will ensure that both at

lowances are utilised and thus assets

to a maximum of £430,000 can be

passed to the beneficiaries free of in-

Johnson, he will manage financially

because he will have his pension in-

come and all the capital invest-

ments. However, if Mr Johnson were.

to die first. I cannot be certain that

Mrs Johnson would be comfortable

on only half Mr Johnson's pension

and the income from the portfolio.

I would like to produce a cashflow

analysis of this situation to ensure

that, whatever happens, both of_

If Mrs Johnson dies before Mr

heritance tax.

capital very quickly. The Johnsons could set aside a fixed amount of capital to pay the These follow share movements in the costs in the future should they ever FTSE 100 or the All-Market share be needed, they could insure themindexes. I don't think this would be selves against the risk, or they could discuss the matter with their sons, who might insure the risk in return ing too bullish, as indices can fall

for a safer inheritance.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/BRITANNIA CHILDREN'S FIRSTSAVER

Account offers good value, but watch the cashcard

dren's FirstSaver Account. The deal: Mindful of the old Jefor life," FirstSaver offers 7 per aged 12 and over. cent gross on a £1 minimum

account can be in the child's to 17. name if he or she is aged besuit saying: "Give me a child by tween seven and 17. There is the age of seven and he is mine a cashcard option for savers

Between ages 12 and 14 the gross at £500, reaching 7.5 per rising to £50 between 14 and

The product: Britannia Chil- cent gross at £5,000-plus. The 15 and £100 for those aged 16 £4.40 last year. Most savings ac-

amounts each year based on its loyalty bonus scheme.

bonus payments are no great balance, rising to 7.25 per cent daily withdrawal limit is £10, shakes. A saver with £2,000 would have received an extra decide to clean out the account.

counts will contain less. If your kids are the sort who like free magazines, badges, special of-

look elsewhere. Giving teenagers a card may be risky, particularly if they

fers, record tokens and the like,

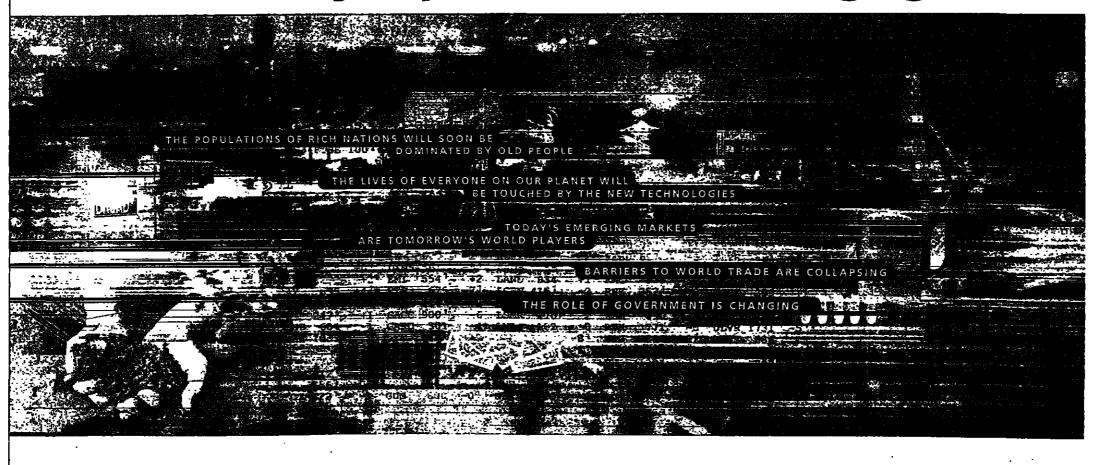
ment-based products, albeit savers. riskier, may offer better returns savers will get some cash but no huge free share payouts if Marks out of five: Three. Britannia demutualises.

The rate, though good to- Plus points: The account is day, is variable and Britannia easy to understand and offers may change it. Some invest- competitive rates to young

The verdict: Straightforward over 10 or 15 years. Young no-frills product which offers good value for money.

GT Global

GT Global Dynamic Theme Fund. Will you profit from the changing world?

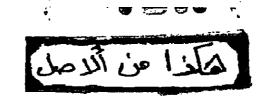




illnesses curable. Technology is having an ever-greater GT Global Dynamic Theme Fund being launched in October seeks to identify and invest in the forces that are driving this changing

investor looking to the Millennium and beyond should be aware of the trends that are driving global change. So we are offering you a free copy of a new independent guide. The Future of ternational Growth Investing. For your copy, and to find out

Put your money where your mind is.



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Insurance spies hover on the legal line

strangers who lie to you and secretly tape the conversation, medical records passed to unlicensed, unregulated individuals with no medical experience, who will later use them in court – it's all par for the course among

Andrew Verity stakes them out.

health insurers.

Men in dark vans with tinted windows parked outside your house for days are not just the devices of the paparazzi or Roger Cook's investigative team. They are techniques endorsed by some of the most high-profile companies in the insurance ' times to be open season on those with menbusiness to check up on those whom they suspect of a false claim.

the country's leading insurers, and passed exclusively to The Independent, reveal just how far many insurers are willing to go to make sure policyholders are not cheating them, even when they have no substantial evidence that there is a claim.

The key document comes from the PHI Forum, an association for providers of permanent health insurance. These policies pay out up to 75 per cent of the policyholder's income if a long-term disability makes work impossible. The biggest providers involved include Black Horse Life. Allied Dunbar, Norwich Union, Friends

Hidden carmeras, phone calls from Provident, Lincoln, Royal & Sun Alliance, Permanent Insurance and Zurich Life, who sell more than 80,000 policies every year between them.

The document reveals the insurers' cri-

teria for how to choose a case suitable for a private investigator. The forum recommends: "Some diseases predispose themselves to private investi-

gation. These are the diseases that do not have precise medical evidence. We would include ME, RSI, musculo skeletal [diseases] including backs, fibromyalgia, mental illness and stress."

Mental health groups see the document's instant suspicion of the mentally ill and its apparent disregard for rights of privacy as outrageous. June McKerrow, director of the Mental Health Foundation, says: "It contal health problems."

It is not malingerers alone who are spied Documents circulating among some of on. William Lyons, 53, who permanently injured his back while working as a civilian for Durham police, was awarded £45,000 by a court in July after a woman with a secret camera in her bag tricked her way into his house. She tried and failed to get evidence showing Mr Lyons was not really in-

Mark Evans, a financial consultant from Abertillery, in Gwent, was last year awarded £350,000 in a similar out-of-court settlement.

When the private eyes offer their ser-

Insurance companies that provide permanent health insurance (PHI) insist their controversial methods are vital to safeguard genuine policyholders from those who claim fraudulently.

According to leading provider Unum, nearly one in 20 of those claiming is fraudulent. Payouts, of up to 75 per cent of salary until retirement, are potentially vast. If false claims were overlooked, premiums would rise massively. Examples of fraud include:

An east London businessman claimed a car accident left him with a back disability. His insurance company asked him to visit an assessment centre in London. His GP protested he could not travel that far. A visitor hired by the insurance company then discovered he'd planned a holiday in Spain.

A policyholder claiming from his PHI cover for back injury was found to have

without question in an ethnic area. The ability to operate in Northern Ireland without comment." They also want professional surveillance. "We would expect competent private investigators to have hidden cameras," the self-styled Best Practice Notes say.

Pretext phone calls, when, for example, an investigator poses as an employer offering a lucrative job, are acceptable, the insurers say. "Taping telephone calls is acceptable as evidence. The other party does not need to be told that the call is being vices, the insurers look for special skills: taped." However, care must be taken: "If

gone bungee-jumping while on holiday

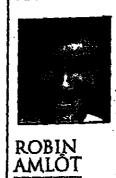
A Chorlton cabbie who claimed £75,000 after arguing that whiplash injuries from a car smash in 1988 meant he could no longer work was filmed plying for trade at Manchester Airport. In some cases, doctors are prepared to initiate false claims, including a Stockport GP who is alleged to have written bogus reports on road accident victims and pocketed the money. He is on trial at Manchester Crown

But some insurers still question the need to hire private eyes so quickly simply because a patient has a condition that is difficult to verify. Companies such as General Assurance are using health visitors who can help claimants in their rehabilitation before the claim becomes fraudulent.

that the callback service operated by British Telecom may allow the claimant to ascertain who has called."

The techniques are so controversial that some question whether they stray outside the law. The Best Practice Notes recommend that private eyes obtain confidential medical records without the permission of the supposed suspects. A spokesman for the Data Protection Registrar says passing on computerised medical records would be illegal without substantial evidence of crime. Some insurers fear that private eyes who go "Language skills. The ability to operate pretent phone calls are made, remember too far may find themselves breaking the law.

INTERNET INVESTOR



Not as easy to read as a book, but a lot more up to date

Big, isn't it? The web that is. And getting bigger. Americans, who like to work this sort of thing out, reckon that one new website is being created every few minutes. Fortunately, at least 95 per cent of what's on the web need not detain us. The trick is locating the 5 per cent which will answer our questions, advise us and tell us what we need to know to be able to make our investment

Assuming you are connected to the Internet and are ready to become a road warrior on the information superhighway, you are likely to realise fairly quickly that the highway you are on is a touch short on signposts. Most of those that do exist have a distinct bias towards the USA, a fact which becomes quickly apparent if you try to use most of the so-called search engines on the web. So where do we find out where we want to go today?

A handful of websites offer a general introduction to personal finance with advice and information, but you may feel that you could just as easily get this kind of approach from a book which is likely to be more portable, more easy to read than a computer screen and which requires only the power supply of your own mind. If all you want is a directory of the personal finance sites worth checking out, there are two potential starting points.

Moneyworld includes a directory of links to personal finance websites which is one of the most comprehensive and well-organised of its type, with brief descriptions of each site to guide you. Financial Information Net Directory (Find) is a straightforward directory of financial services websites of interest to a UK audience.

What the best general personal finance websites can offer you, which a book cannot, are up-to-date prices, performance and statistical data which you can analyse and manipulate.

Interactive Investor and Moneyworld both include performance data

and a comprehensive set of links to other sites and both are free to access although Interactive Investor does require you to register as a user.

Interactive Investor allows you to search its news database of corporate press releases and also has a catalogue of books on investment which you can order from the site.

Moneyworld, which does not ask you to register, is best described as a magazine on the web with a strong statistical content. The site has its own search engine, PowerSearch, which allows you to search unit trusts, investment trusts, pensions, life funds and shares by past performance.

All share prices from the London market are updated every 20 minutes and all the statistical data on the site is downloadable to your own spreadsheets. In addition to London share prices, Moneyworld also quotes the prices of British shares on the New York markets while Wall Street trades.

It can be a useful way of getting advance notice of the likely price movements in London the following morning. The site also has a tax calculator, personal finance news and stock market reports updated every day.

As a magazine free to its readers, Moneyworld makes its living through advertising on the site which is botlinked to the advertisers: own websites. The site is also pioneering the use of RealCall technology with advertisers.

This allows you to click on an advertisement, enter your phone number on screen and, within a minute, receive a call back from a real, live human being. This does not cost you anything. Among a number of firms making use of this new technology are Bradford & Bingley, Fleming Investment Trust Management, Legal & General and Royal & Sun Alliance.

Find: www find coluk Interactive Investor: www.iii.co.uk Moneyworld: www.moneyworld.co.uk

BARGAIN BASEMENT

Solicitors slip up on advice

Putting your faith in solicitors could leave you out of pocket, nario concerning a double-glazaccording to a survey by consumer magazine Which?.

oal

Researchers working for the magazine took four separate problems to 79 different solicitors' firms across the UK.

They found that in one sceing dispute, only one solicitor out of 21 was able to give correct advice. Three more gave advice that could have cost

thousands of pounds in un-

wanted double glazing.

WORLDCOVER ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

CALL HE ON 0800 365 121

A guide to getting your home ready for winter

Age Concern Insurance Services, part of the charity working for elderly people, is offering a free guide to protect your home and maintain it.

Its handy hints guide offers simple, practical advice on keeping your home secure, as well as setailing routine checks home owners need to make to make sure that their property is ready for winter.

The guide includes sections on preparing for winter, going away from home, what to do if storm, and advice if a pipe freezes and bursts.

Age Concern's guide comes on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the October 1987 storms which caused more than £1.5bn of damage throughout

the UK. Although the ferocity of those storms was such that it would have been impossible to prevent large-scale disasters, the charity believe these tips could do much to prevent the more minor damage that occurs whenever bad weather strikes.

your home is damaged by a For further information or to receive the free guide, phone 0354 697 670.

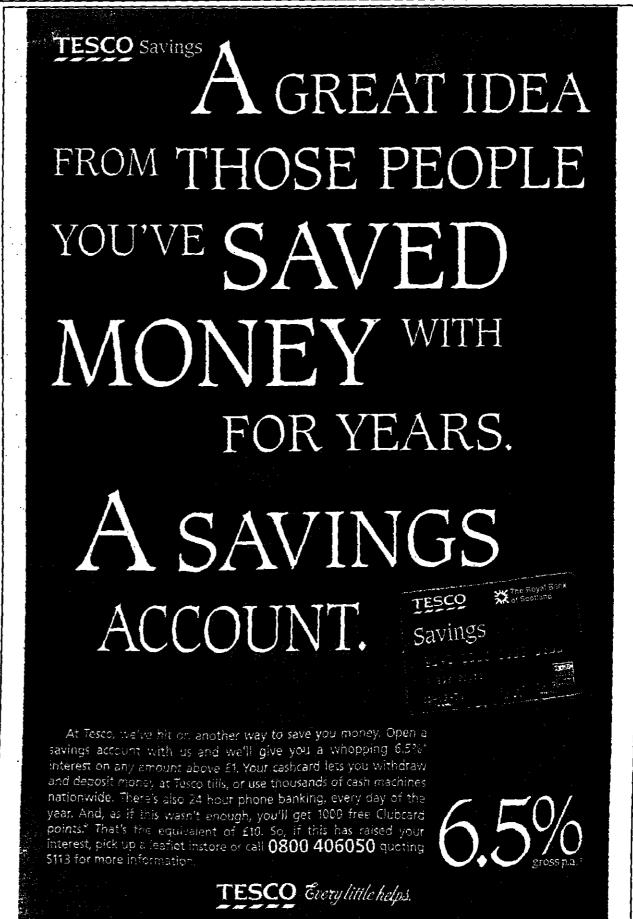
In brief

Pearl is offering customers insured through its Home Insurance Extra policy the chance to extend cover to protect their children's possessions while in student accommodation. The extra cover, for up to £2,000 of contents, costs £30 a year for students under 25 in full-time education. Call 0645 557788.

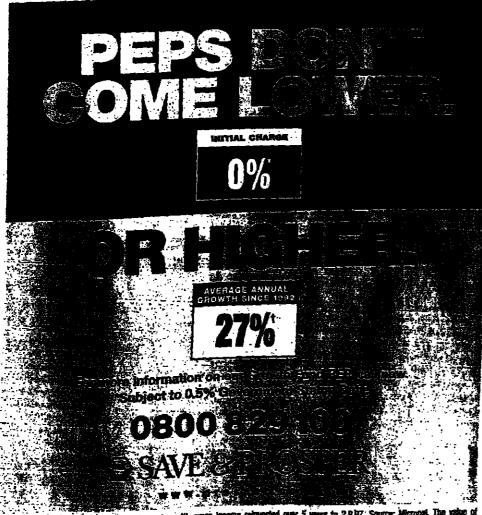
National Westminster Bank is launching money management seminars for students at 50 of its branches. Contact branches

The Share Centre, a telephone stockbroker, is launching a daily market report on the Internet, which includes comments on prospects for the market and the centre's own buy/sell/hold recommendations. Call 0800 800008 for details or access the site on www.share.co.uk.

Legal & General is launching a Pre-PEP Bond for savers who want to use next tax year's PEP allowance now. The bond offers 8 per cent gross to savers between 31 October and 6 April 1988, when the money will be invested in L&G's three PEPs. Interest paid on the investment means £5,830 would give investors the full £6,000 maximum investment into the PEP next April.



16.5% is the gross arrival rate. Gross means the arrival rate of interact pold without deduction of lower rate tor. Interest rates are subject to variation. Calls may be monitored. The account will be operated for Tesco Personal Finance by The Royal Bank of Scriband plc. Tesco Personal Finance Ltd., registered in Scriband not 173789. Registered Office: 42 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EHZ 27E. "Clubcard bonus points subject to an everage behance of £500 being maintained in your Tesco Sewings. Account for the first these scentiles. This introductory offer is on all applications received by \$1 December 1957.



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Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate anniher above questing ref. IND BB28

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS. ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

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Best savings rates

B - Withdrawnals via Bank Clearing System

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without nature.

Source: MONETACTS 01692 500677

2nd October 1997

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BRIAN TORA

Believe in bonds

FTSE index, a bull market has developed that seems to ing ahead over recent weeks. trends? Long gilt yields are down to 6.5 per cent and it is difficult that you can buy under its redemption value. This is not as word - deflation.

Not everyone subscribes rather than later. But the amounts to zero unemployment, yet inflation is not a threat. The Fed decided against moving interest rates up this week. There was no need to.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, the giant international bank, believes in the deflation theory. He was ahead of the game in his book, The Death of Inflation. His contention is that a rising cost of living is nothing

Part of the reason for the flation could be the rapid new, more powerful chip, exponential growth in the Brian Tora is chairman of Internet or technology Greig Middleton's investment breaching another parrier.

matters such as tighter stock His new column will appear on control, less waste, more ef- Saturday 18 October.

Amid all the excitement that ficient use of resources, bethas surrounded soaring share ter marketing techniques and prices and new highs on the so on owes everything to the growing sophistication of information technology. Quite have been overlooked. Gilt- a rosy picture, but what does edged stocks have been mov- it have to do with investment

There are those who believe deflation should mean to find a Government stock that bonds yield less than equities. I do not subscribe to this view, particularly as we a result of the convergence seem to be in a position where story. It all hinges around one economies can grow without severe inflationary pressures. However, with perceived wisto the theory that deflation is dom at Government level likely to be with us sooner now that borrowing is a bad thing, the supply of bonds world's greatest economy is could diminish, so further upgrowing steadily and has what ward adjustment in the price of sovereign debt should not be ruled out.

Paul Thursby, manager of Barings Global Bond Trust, is of the opinion that fiscal austerity around the world will help bond markets almost everywhere. This is the first time in 20 years that governments have withdrawn from endeavouring to sustain GDP growth.

It is not just countries like Japan that have zero inlike the problem it used to be. flation, according to Paul. He rates bonds highly. I think he decline in the power of in- has a point. If you are as nervous of the stock market as technological advancements. Gartmore is, there looks to be being made. Each week little lost in putting your faith seems to bring a story on a in bonds. Warren Buffett is.

strategy committee and can be The quiet revolution in contacted on 0171 655 4000.

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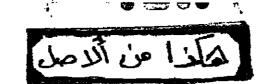
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Samuelson's argument still holds true

Time passes and the caravan of luminaries in the world of finance and economics moves on with it. How widely. I wonder, does the name of Paul Samuelson still resonate among those under the age of 35? This wise and feisty man, once described with feeling by a contemporary as "a human mainframe", has good claim, along with his great rival, Milton Friedman, to have been the most influential economist of the post-war period.

In a career that has left virtually no corner of economics untouched, he was the man who first took the philosophies of Keynes and propagated them far and wide across the world. He was the first American economist to win the Nobel Prize for economics and wrote what proved to be the standard textbook on economics for a whole generation of students.

Samuelson's work has covered so many different subjects - his collected works run to six volumes and more than 400 academic papers - that it is easy to overlook his contribution in specific fields.

As it happens, one of the areas where he has had the greatest influence is in investment. As an admirer of Keynes, who was a noted speculator as well as a professional economist, he was one of the first economists to try and understand why markets should behave in the way that they do. A paper he wrote in the 1960s, dryly entitled "Proof That Properly Anticipated Prices Fluctuate Randomly", was the basis of what has since come to be known as the concept of efficient markets.

This is the notion that competition is such in large and well capitalised stock markets that it is difficult for anyone, even professional investors, to make consistent excess returns from them, excess returns in this context meaning higher returns than the market averages, after allowing for the different degrees of risk adopted. He later summed up his philosophy as "no easy pickings, no sure thing gains".

When Samuelson first propounded this potentially radical idea, it was greeted with astonishment, bordering on outrage, on Wall Street, which was hardly a surprise when you begin to and has compiled a consistent abovethink through the implications, Never one to want to avoid making waves if the opportunity arose, Samuelson have read this column will know, is an



Paul Samuelson: propagated Keynes' philosophies across the world

himself concluded in a 1974 article that the best thing most professional fund managers could do was to pack their bags and go home. But, as a pragmatist, who like Keynes has always liked to dabble in the markets himself, he dinary investors.

This was that the best thing they could do, once they had decided to invest in equities in the first place, was to put the bulk of their money into a low-cost index-tracking fund. He has long been a fan of the Vanguard. Group, a fund management company which sells exactly such index-tracking runds to millions of American investor average performance.

The line of reasoning, as those who

argument which I believe holds as broadly true today in general as it did when Samuelson first propounded it. It does not mean, as Jason Hathorn, a director of the specialist fund management group Buchanan Partners has also had some serious advice for or-, kindly pointed out to me, that there are a number of ways in which investors cannot still hope to add value by adding a slice of active management on top of their basic indexed portfolio.

One of the arguments for investing in a professionally managed European or emerging markets fund, for example, is that there are good grounds for believing that other markets are not States and therefore that it will still be possible to find profitable pricing

Like Barclays Global Investors,

whom I wrote about recently, Buchanan Partners believes that it is possible to use quantitative stock selection methods to exploit specific arcas of inefficiency in the UK market. Their track record to date suggests that they may well be right, although how long these particular anomalies will persist is something which is by definition unknowable.

Samuelson would not disagree. In two recent articles for the Journal of Portfolio Management, he looked back on the 30 or so years of research that has been carried our since he first started developing the efficient markets bypothesis. His conclusion is that, while many individual anomalies have been shown to exist, the "jury of history" has failed to find "systematic inefficiency that exercisers of judgement could use to achieve excess risk-corrected returns". In other words, nobody has yet succeeded in disproving the basic thrust of the efficient markets concept.

Note that Samuelson's argument now, as before, is not that it is impossible for some professional fund managers to achieve excess returns. He explicitly allows the possibility that a handful of exceptionally talented individuals, such as Warren Buffett, can outperform the market on a consistent basis, though most will not, partly because they tend to trade too much and fritter away some of their gains in high dealing costs.

His case has always been that such exceptional investing talents will normally use their talent to make money for themselves, rather than rent themselves out to others; and that it is difficult and/or expensive for ordinary investors to take advantage of such talents even if they are able to identify

One thing that tends to happen, for example, is that most of the excess returns that the good managers achieve are simply absorbed by the higher fees that the managers with the best records are able to charge. This is one reason why the unit trusts with the best performance records tend also to be the ones with the highest initial charges and often the highest annual charges pay for what you get, but what you get, quite often, once you tot up the costs, is not worth paying for, compared with what you get from indexing.

THE STOCK MARKET



Soap operas can't match it for drama

Had the comment been "He reads books on brain surgery as a hobby," the intonation of surprise in the voice could not have been greater.

To many people, anything to do with shares is not only considered a mystery but is also regarded as deadly dull. Of course many subjects are also considered uninteresting until we find out more about them.

Many people switch off when financial matters are discussed because they think the subject is beyond their comprehension.

the stock market: "It is like a real-life soap opera with a cast of thousands. It has star players, the occasional unknowns achieving overnight fame, births, marriages, intrigue, success stories, feuds, dominant persoñalities, weak individuals and power struggles."

Around 3,000 shares are going real-life drama there may be good news, a little intrigue

"He follows the stock market." or a report of a boardroom power stroggie.

Failing demand for a company's goods or services, or a worsening economy may cast a

shadow. Just as with a soap opera, it takes time to become conversant with the market's vagaries. It is possible to do so without spending any money, Indeed, it is advisable to buy only when you feel comfortable and con-

Create an imaginary portfolio of shares in the companies which appeal to you. They could include the brewery which owns Here is a different view of your local pub, the supermarket chain which you favour or the manufacturer of your favourite toothpaste. Provided

fident.

Stock Exchange, the choice is Follow their fate by looking at their share price each day and reading reports about them in The Independent's business quoted in London. In this on- pages. A company's annual report not only contains financial

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a great deal about its activities. Companies will always send a copy to anyone upon request.

Do not restrict your researches to the financial press. Follow the general news and look at what is happening.

If a company has developed a new product, is refurbishing its chain of shops or is generally improving its image, you may consider that its profitability will increase. Add companies which attract your attention to the list.

It is by following the coverage of company news that you become familiar with the stock

"Where to get Share Information" is ProShare Investor Update No 5. It is available by sending an A4 stamped addressed envelope to: ProShare, 13-14 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5BQ.

John Andrew is the author of "How to Understand the Financial Press". His book is published by Kogan Page at £9.99 and is available in bookshops.



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Burghers hold back the wave of technology

Spare a thought for the brave burghers of Llanwrtyd Wells, in Barclays Bank led to a minor of jobs have been axed.

victory this week. The town, with a population of just 700, is the smallest in Britain and the bank was intent on saving costs by closing its branch there. But protests by 30 inhabitants have succeeded in ensuring that Barclays will continue to devote two part-time bank owned by Midland, is staff to servicing the branch three days a week. One small vic-

against a context of massive ra-most 750,000 customers who are tionalisation within the retail more than happy - indeed, mid Wales, whose ferocious banking sector. Thousands of they demand - to do business determination to prevent the bank and building society over the phone. closure of their local branch of branches and tens of thousands

> Of course, this is in part cieties' drive to boost profits. Yet it is also based on a growing wish among bank customers for different types of service that more closely represent their needs.

part of this trend. Since its inception in the late 1980s, First ternet, a move followed by tory, perhaps. But it takes place Direct has built up a base of almany other organisations.

This has come in tandem with a move by most banks to remove most of their back-ofcaused by the big banks' and so-fice functions from the branches to rémote service centres.

The move to branchless banking has spread. Lloyds Bank and Cinbank use Psion organisers, which can be con-First Direct, the telephone nected to the phone to download financial information.

Nationwide is using the In-

the way in staffless branches. through which it is possible to carry out most major transactions via machines in the wall

and video cameras. Barclays offers a mobile phone alternative, in which prospective customers can access details of their account

while on the move. The Co-op this week offered the same mobile link, but also gave users a choice of phones. With the Co-op, you get a free phone for which you pay £23.50 a month in line rental and a £35 connection fee. This gives 20

Co-operative Bank has led minutes of free airtime, with peak rate calls costing 40p and peak rate local calls costing 12p.

Co-operative Bank claims that first-year fixed costs would be about £332, on which you must add the price of calls you make. The bank admits that only a few thousand people are likely to take advantage of such

an offer in the coming year. But it insists the future of modern banking lies in the diversity of means of access of financial services to customers, of which mobile phones are just

- Nic Clarit



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'This Life', it is not. By

portrayal of serial sex,

drink-and-drugs binges

Britain's recent crop of

much tamer. What they

TV series' graphic

and, maybe, a little

graduates can seem

work, real life for

have in common,

however, is debt, a

hangover from their

Downes asks whether

banks really care.

student days. Samantha

The move from student life to

one of work can mean one

giant-sized hangover for each

summer's new crop of college

graduates. Paying back huge overdrafts incurred as a student

can mean that the first few

years' adjustment to a life of

work is not always the exciting

The introduction of student

loans in 1990 placed a whole

generation of students into fur-

ther debt. Seven years later

the average graduate leaves

university owing around £4,000.

debt looks set to increase, ful-

lowing the abolition of the

student grant and the Govern-

ment's decision to charge all but

the poorest students a £1,000 teaching fee, repayable after

for female graduates and

£13,660 for males.

graduation.

From 1998, the mountain of

experience it ought to be.

comparison with the cult

The real world can be an expensive place to live

Wealth warning: Today's up-and-coming young professionals are finding their student debts cause more headaches than their social outings

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'Graduates are tempted by what seems like a good offer, and will use the money to buy extras like a stereo'

A National Westminster Bank spokesman says "destudentisation" can place many graduates in financial shock. "Having to buy a new suit, and having to suddenly pay more for things, even going out, all add up to additional expenses," he says.

Although they admit to a penchant for the odd bottle of wine or three, these up-andcoming young professionals from south London admit it is their debts which are giving them the worst post-graduate hangover. Key to achieving a good relationship with their bank managers is a willingness

charges by letting his bank £800 interest-free overdraft, know when he was in financial difficulty. "I have had an account with the Royal Bank of Scotland since I was 15," he says. "I made sure I kept them informed of my financial situation and [they] would increase my overdraft as necessary."

Caroline Soames, 24, rethought her choice of course when she was unable to get funding for a social science degree. Last year she finished a twoyear HND course in television operations in Newcastle and now works as a technical operator with a satellite TV channel.

but is not too concerned at her ability to pay it off. "Generally I did not really live beyond any means," she says. Working in the summer hol-

idays or studying for a degree which offers one-year work experience as part of the course helps. Simon Salwan, 24, is a trainee trader in the City of London. He finished his first degree, a BSc in Computer Studies, debt free. He admits he is lucky to have

started his new job with a debt of just £900. "I did an internship with IBM and I saved some money from that. All I have now

A new

After college

graduates wil

financial slog

face a hard

life finishes,

Stuart Davidson, from the Nacab money advice support unit says: They should sit down and make a budget. Graduates are often tempted by what seems like a good offer, and will use the money to buy extras like a stereo."

Nacab recommends that graduates consolidate their debts. "Running a loan and an overdraft is the slippery slope into more debt. Taking out a loan to absorb the overdraft should be considered."

Cove softe if you

Pros

have

othe

One by-product of increase ing competition for graduate customers, considered by banks to be potential high-flyers, is their willingness to offer packages that aim to get students over the first few years of postgraduation hardship. All the traditional high street banks offer cheap graduate loan facilities.

Barclays and Lloyds offer graduates a maximum loan of £5,000, but be prepared to pay more interest if you want longer to pay the amount back. The Barclays loan is fixed at 9.9 per cent APR per annum and must be paid back over two years. Lloyds allows graduates five years but the interest is higher at 10.5 per cent APR per year.

Nat West offers a maximum loan of £10,000, repayable at 8 per cent APR per year over seven years. Midland also offers a £10,000 maximum loan, repayable over five years at 9.9 per cent APR.

If loans sound like too much of a commitment, another option is an interest-free overdraft. second year of her course, kept some savings which enabled Lloyds allows up to £750 for a her bank notified of potential me to pay for expenses like a de- year after graduation, while Barclays offers a £1,500 facility. Midland offers a three-year £3,000 interest-free overdraft.

Abbey National and Halifax say they are looking at the loans or overdraft facilities.



Moreover, the 300,000-plus with their branch, both as stustudents who graduated this dents and afterwards.

ar can hardly expect to start . Mark James, a trainee on mega-bucks. A Barclays surlicitor in London's West End. vey in March showed the averowes around £4,500, a combiage starting salary to be £11,749 nation of a student loan, over-

draft and credit card bills.

However, the 25-year-old. who graduated in French and The expenses associated law from Cardiff University in with starting a new job can put a graduate in even more debt. 1994, avoided excessive bank

only received a grant during the is an overdraft," he says. "I had problems. But although she has paid off her overdraft, Car-

£1,000 student loan. Sue Privett, 22, took the ing expenses were paid for by her parents. She now has an

posit on a house and new suits. I was quite careful when I was oline still has an outstanding a student. I could have got into a lot more debt than I have."

The National Association borrow only what they need.

same course. Her fees and liv- of Citizen's Advice Bureaux graduate market, but have no (Nacab) warns graduates to immediate plans to offer special

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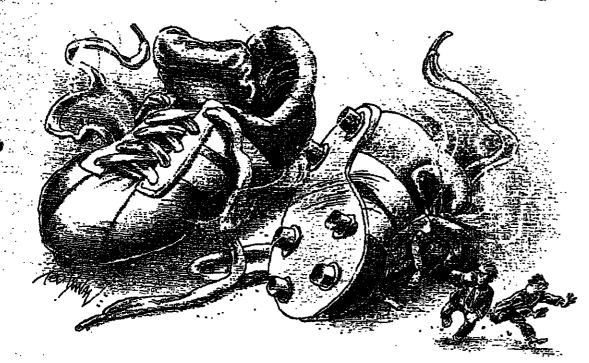
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Dangerous sports can put your insurance at risk



You'd think insurers would want their clients to keep as fit as possible. But, as Paul Slade discovers, many sports can leave your premiums and cover looking less than

Hang-gliders, potholers, mountaineers and polo players are just a few of the people who may find their weekend sport creates problems with their life and health in-

One area likely to be hit is PHI, or permanent health insurance, which provides policyholders with an income when unable to work through illness or accident. Some insurers, such as Abbey Life and Eagle Star, will refuse to pay out if the injury arose through any activity on their list of dangerous sports. Others will accept the risk, but charge

a higher premium. A few will look in detail at the circumstances involved and may make no extra

Colin Young of Unum, a specialist health insurer, says: "What we're looking for is people who are pursuing these sports in a regulated environment and following safety procedures. If it's motorised hanggliding, we'd want to know they've got a private pilot's licence. If it's parachuting, we'd want to see they're doing it as part of a club."

The individual's level of experience also counts for a lot. In cases like this, Mr Young says, no extra loading may be needed. Where loadings are deemed necessary, they could add anything from 25 per cent to 100 per cent to the size of the premiums. The same principle applies to life insurance and private medical cover although, in the case of life insurance, you are less likely to face exclusions than a simple

rughy or footbell, seldom trouble underwriters. You may find, however, that health insurance underwriters are tougher on sports such as rugby than their life insurance counterparts. This is because you have a higher chance of being injured on

the rugby field than of dying there. Application forms will ask you to specify any dangerous sports you may be involved in. Those admitting to daredevil hobbies get a second questionnaire asking for more details,

These forms are designed to flag up not only risky sports, but also any hazards involved in your work. Friends' Provident, for example, has one question on its form designed to uncover any applicants who may have forgotten to mention their work in bomb disposal.

It is important to complete them bonestly. Admitting only to a little light golf when you spend every spare minute hot air ballooning could invalidate any claim you may

Less hazardous sports, such as later need to make. Independent financial adviser Amanda Davidson says: "I'm a great believer in putting everything down on the form. If you had your tonsils out at the age of

two, put it down." Ms Davidson's own passion is for scuba diving. But because she sticks to safe areas and relatively shallow dives, she has found no need to pay

extra for her own insurance. Mr Young recommends going back to your insurer or adviser to see if the experience you have gained in your chosen sport may qualify you for lower premiums.

We will reassess the case," he says. Ms Davidson adds: "If I get a situation with a client where the insurer says they don't like a certain sport or they want to put an extra on the premium, I tend to argue the toss with the underwriters and negotiate. They will reduce loadings or take them off. So don't accept the first loading they come up with, or the first exclusion."

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Cover can help soften the blow if you're injured

Every year, 19 million sports in- for an amateur team of up to juries are reported to GPs or 20 players. Each £100 will buy hospital emergency departments - a quarter of them caused by football. For most people, the only way to soften the blow is to have some form of insurance cover.

The first step is to check whether you are covered by a work scheme. Many employers do have group medical insurance schemes for their staff. is not generous, in soccer there You can then receive non-NHS treatment if necessary.

The problem comes where employers' policies have a clause excluding certain sports, or even sports deemed to be dangerous. In this case, private cover is needed.

Bupa does not have a specific sports injury policy. But its BupaCare scheme, typically costing £41.61 a month for a single person aged 30, gives cover for any in-patient hospital treatment. This includes Xrays, surgery and hospital stays. BupaCare policies also provide out-patient treatment, such as physiotherapy, costing up to £500 a year. Sports clubs can obtain cover for individual members at a 15 per cent discount.

Another route is to insure the entire team rather than the individual, IGI Insurance, based in Nottingham, provides this service for most team sports. Its most popular cover is for football clubs.

Mark Searcy, business manager at IGI Insurance, said: "We price the cover for a club in units of £100, which means they can choose exactly how much they spend. The cover is

£1,000 compensation for death, loss of eye or limb, or total disablement. Benefit of up to £10 per unit per week for a total of 104 weeks is also paid to those in gainful employment, subject to a seven-day deferment."
There is also £500,000 public liability cover.

Although the amount paid are roughly three individual claims per season for every four policies. Rugby, which is three times as risky, costs £200 per unit of cover. Hockey comes in at about £30, with cricket costing £30 and volleyball and netball £25.

Another company, Amsport, offers the Gameplan policy against sporting injury. It covers 101 different sports, including aerobics, tennis, golf, squash, ice hockey and martial arts. Cover starts from £3.55 a month for low-risk sports, up to £10.55 a month for high-risk activities such as American foot-

It includes benefits of up to £100 a week, plus hospital benefits of up to £30 a day, dental fees of up to £275, plus physiotherapy costing up to £300.

Those permanently disabled receive up to £75,000 and £37,500 is paid on accidental death. Liability insurance of up to £1m is included.

- Nic Ciartti

Sports insurers: IGI Insurance phone 0115 9411022; Amsport phone 0171 7218656; Bupa phone 0800 600500.

Pros have other rules

Professional footballers and other full-time sports people face a different range of problems in arranging their own finances. We tend to think of fa-

mous faces such as Ryan Giggs or Ian Wright, whose income now should be sufficient to set them up for life. But only about 800 of the UK's 2,600 professional footballers, for instance, enjoy the enhanced earning power of playing in the Premiership. In the lower divisions, many players will be earning little more than the fans.

One thing the Premiership players have in common with their more lowly brethren is that both groups must pack a whole career into a few years.

Mick McGuire, assistant chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, says: "The average career expectancy as a professional is eight years, and 50 per cent of those who sign professional contracts are no longer professional in two



Ryan Giggs: Early annuity

years' time. Players may be retiring from football at any age from 19 to 40, but the majority are finished at 32 or 33."

This early retirement age means the taxman's usual annuity rules are warved for professional sportsmen. The rest of us may have to wait till 50 or later, but professional footballers can take a retirement annuity at any age from 35 onwards, which will contique to pay them an income

until death. As far as tax relief is concerned, professional sportsmen are subject to the same contribution limits and carnings cap as the rest of us.

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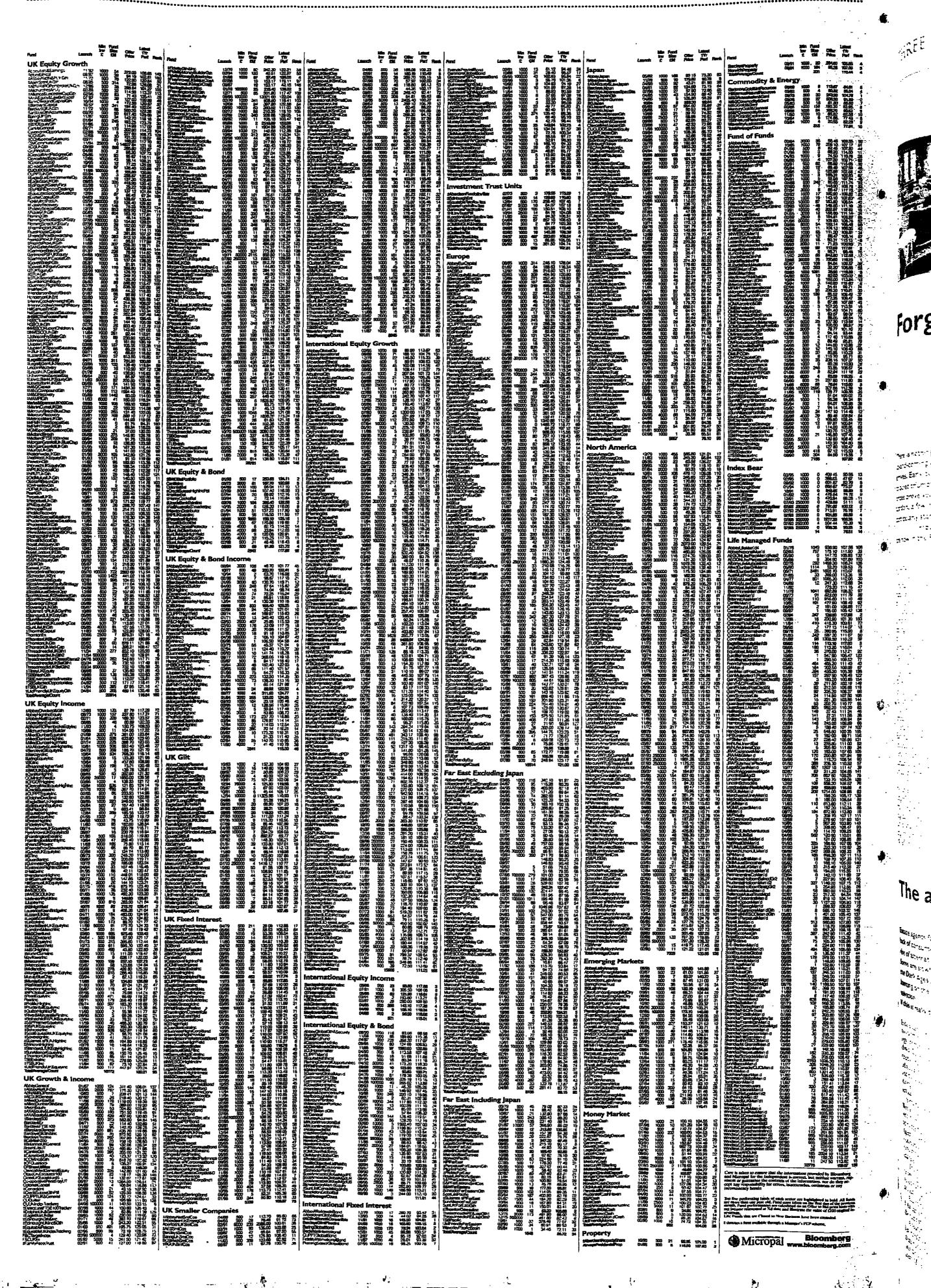
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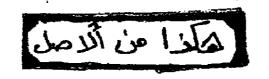
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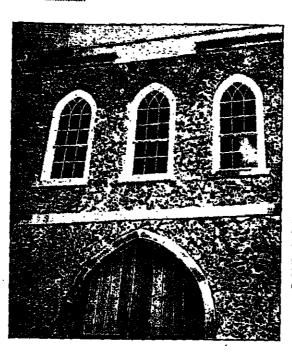
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THREE TO VIEW: WITH ONE BEDROOM



Tomasz Starzewski, frock designer to the famous, is selling his very large onebedroom flat in Queensgate, London SW7. The lower ground-floor apartment, with 37ft drawing room, has been designed for entertaining rather than overnight guests, but there is a studycum-dressing room adjoining the 17ft bedroom. For sale at £295,000 through Chesterfield (0171 581 5234).



The Summer House at Alderley in Gloucestershire, 18 miles from Bath, is a one-bedroom castellated folly built on a hill with views to the Severn estuary. Reached via a track through the woods, the only sound to be heard is bird song. With Gothic windows and doors and a part circular kitchen, it is furnished and ready for rental at £1,250 a month. Through Knight Frank (01285 658656).



A sofa bed would be a happy addition to The Legacy, a late-Victorian house with one bedroom. overlooking the River Rother channel at Rye in Sussex. Guests staying in the 24ft attic room would have a distant view of the sea The rest of the house includes a living room with wood-burning stove and a bedroom with open fireplace and French doors to the balcony. £85,000 through Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338).

Forget the price escalator. Find a place that rockets

There is nothing like spotting an up-and-coming area before it arrives. Early defensiveness turns to quiet triumphalism as rising prices prove your point. In London, a few areas have seen particularly startling increases. Penny Jackson reports on areas that are now in the Premier League

Leading the field of the newly-fashionable is Notting Hill, in west London, which according to a review by Savills Research, has increased in popularity by 50 per cent within 10 years.

Startlingly, Wandsworth, in south-west London, is now regarded as prime, while among the new residential areas cluse to the City, Clerkenwell epitomises the successful trend for turning old industrial buildings into New York style lofts.

So why do so many more people now want to move to these parts of London? We spoke to three recent buyers about their choice. Margot Steinberg, a Canadian actress and theatre producer, bought her flat in Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill in the

She had tired of the transient feel of Kensington as much as being priced out of the area: "I was a little nervous of moving here. It seemed exciting, even a little bit dangerous, although unlike New York I never feel in any personal danger.

"I already knew it because a lot of my favourite restaurants and cafes were in Notting Hill. I love it here. There is a wonderful mix of people and there is real buzz during the daytime because there are so many actors and artists around. It doesn't die dur-



In love, with Notting Hill: Margot Steinberg in her new flat

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

walked through the door although it took and designery." me a good six months to find it. It has refor 10 per cent more."

tirely gentrified and that it is clearly popular with families. "Just before I moved in for £327,500. there was a big party in the communal gardens. You really feel you belong somewhere and for someone like me who has no fam-"I fell in love with my flat as soon as I I hope it doesn't become too fashionable munal gardens can be worth at least £2.5m. with a good garden.

A similar flat closer to Ladbroke Grove tate agents. They are selling a two bedroom, She likes the fact also that it is not entwo bathroom maisonette near the crest of mute from afar than they were. the hill, with the use of communal gardens,

cent in the last year. An unmodernised four-

In its research, Savills found that green spaces and large period family houses were ally big rooms, with lovely proportions. I tube station would cost in the region of among the biggest incentives for people to could have sold it the day after I bought it £200,000 according to Winkworth, the es- move out of central London. Working couples with children are less prepared to com-

A few years ago, Matthew Kaye, a partner in Chesterfield, the estate agents, Properties in the area have risen 20 per might have considered moving out to the country now that his wife is expecting their bedroom house near the tube sells for second child. Instead they have moved to ily in the country that is really important. £340,000 while a larger house on the com- a large house in a quiet Wandsworth street

THAT WAS THEN. THIS IS NOW

		14011
How prices have risen	1992	1997
Notting Hill W2: 4-bed house, Northumberland Avenue	£350,000	£700,000
Wandsworth SW18 6-bed house, Baskerville Road	£450,000	£800,000
Clerkenwell WC1 1,000 sq ft of loft space	£100,000	£250,000

A staging post to the country, perhaps, often have to work in the evenings and scattering of redevelopment. it would be impossible if I lived a long have shot up, in effect after work done to the house we paid no more than the £360,000 we got for our two-bedroom,

two-bathroom Knightsbridge flat." The village feel of the common has a particular appeal. Volvos and labradors are as much in evidence as in Sussex. "Most of our neighbours are young, married with children. We all go to the same playgroups, nurseries or schools. In fact the schools are good and are enormous draw."

A lot of Wandsworth's buyers are exiles from Chelsea and still regard Peter Jones as their local shop. "This is a good move for the archetypal Sloane Ranger", adds Mr

The leafy outlier was just what Lindsay Etchells, a solicitor, and her partner wanted to escape. They left Balham, south London, for an old print works in Clerkenwell

when the market was its most depressed but one where families tend to linger. "I during the early '90s and there was only a

"The building was derelict and gave us way. I like to be able to drive to work in a huge amount of space," she says. "We 15 minutes," he says. "Although prices have created our own house within walking distance of the City, Covent Garden, Islington, the South Bank, you name it. It has a strong Italian community - a festival every summer, and wonderful delis all within a stone's throw. It is a lovely mixed area of people and architecture".

Along with its new chic image that rivals the most improved areas of Docklands, has come an explosion of restaurants. "We can walk home from work, find the the fridge empty, and pop out to some of the best eateries in town", says Lindsay

According to Lee Clements of agents Jarvis Keller, it would be almost impossible today to find the kind of undeveloped space Lindsay Etchells bought. About 1,000 sq feet would have cost less than £150,000 in '92, whereas today it would be

The armchair revolution sweeping over estate agents

Estate agents face a continuing lack of consumer confidence and a rise of alternative sales methods. Some are slowly emerging from the Dark Ages and claim househunting on the internet offers salvation. Felicity Connell investigates if this is really the case.

Estate agents have been notoriously slow to incorporate the latest in new technology, primarily in order to keep costs down. But whereas, once upon a time, reams of badly photocopied details proved adequate, those who want to sell our home and persuade us to buy another are now having to work harder to improve their

Some have alighted on the World Wide Web as the way forward. Marcus Baldersion, from the Internet working party set up by the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), says: "The Internet is set to influence the commercial world with the same impact as electricity, the telephone and television.

The pace of change in information technology is such that estate agents could be left behind in business terms if they do not get to grips with the Internet now."

According to statistics, one in 10 households can already accesses the Internet and

the number is growing. A search of the Net for properties to buy initially looks promising, but up to now there is little national coverage, with many sites devoid of instructions on how to use them. More can presently be gained from

national or local press or even through the ternet service. PropertyLive. Although phone book.

In the United States, by contrast, 70 per cent of residential homes are advertised on the Internet. While UK estate agents have so far been reluctant to invest in a system which is still in its infancy, and to which the majority of potential customers do not have access, huge investment is being made by the computer and television industries to bring the Internet out of the study and into the living room.

Stephen Forshaw, of Imaginative Tech-

With an up-to-the-minute computerised system, properties can be wiped off, or temporarily blocked, in a matter of seconds once an offer has been accepted

nology - one such company - says: "Most people won't be interested until they can access the Internet via the TV remote control." By Christmas this will be possible.

A box to connect televisions to the Internet is already available at around £300. but will soon be marketed like a mobile phone, at a fraction of its cost with the profits coming from usage. When this system becomes integral with television, Mr Forshaw predicts that internet use will explode. The NAEA has recently set up an Innot the first of its kind, its ultimate goal is to reduce the house-buying process from

several weeks to a matter of hours. · PropertyLive is based on the NAEA's existing HomeLink service, designed to help people move from one area of the country to another. It provides access to properties offered for sale through 850 independent estate agents nationwide, via a visit to a local participating estate agent. Now, this information will be available from the home, via the Internet.

In addition, through integration with government databases, customers will soon be able to find out essential property-related information - local schools, hospitals and leisure and transport facilities. New access to information will allow estate agents to speed up the sales process - to check title, carry out local searches and deal with land registry. As the service develops, online mortgages, conveyancing, insurance and other services may be made available, as the NAEA tries to turn the estate agent into a one-stop property

The speed at which homes are presently selling means property details mailed to customers may be out of date even before the package reaches the postbox. With an up-to-the-minute computerised system, properties can be wiped off, or temporarily blocked, in a matter of seconds once an

offer has been accepted. On the Internet, one of the largest residential property sites is ITL Home Search. ITL charges estate agents £100 per month to advertise all their properties, with colour pictures of exteriors and interiors.



Broadcast views: by Christmas it will be possible to switch from soaps to semis

organica, our somewhat being of a

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Consumers can access ITL's Homelocator service. A customer taps in his demands, for a three-bedroomed detached period house with garage on the outskirts of Cambridge, priced under £180,000. Every day the company will e-mail details of any new property meeting those criteria.

within the next five years estate agency will change almost beyond recognition," Marcus Baiderston says.

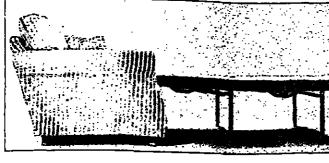
PropertyLive's charges to its estate So far, sales success has been mixed. In one agents are similar. "My personal view is that recent case, a vendor who advertised his property on the Internet soon found a buyer - living just round the corner.

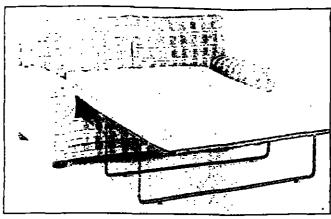
Ultimately, the truth of such a claim de- Property Live: www.propertylive.co.uk; ITL pends on how clients take to the system. Home Search: www.ulhomesearch.com)

10/PROPERTY

FURNISHINGS

Do a long stretch on a sofa bed





When sofa beds were bed settees they were as sexy as an anorak and as vicious as a deck chair. Pressure on living space, however, has led to big improvements in comfort and style. Rosalind Russell examines some of the best without losing her

On average, people buy a sofa every five to seven years and spend about three months making the decision. They usually visit up to five shops.

On top of that, the Sofa Workshop company says, they the store they eventually buy you want." from. Not an impulse buy, then

- people generally take longer making up their minds about the sofa than buying the house "It's a major purchase." says

Ashley Grant of the Sofa Workshop, which has 32 stores in the United Kingdom and a mail-order service. For those intending to buy a sofa bed, he advises asking salesmen direct questions about how often it can really be used as a bed, especially if it is intended for a studio flat.

"A lot of them should be used as a bed on only one or two nights a week at best." he cautions. "We sell only one that can't be used every day. The rest full-size double bed, or two cheaper. have an interior sprung mattress. They can be standard double bed size, 6ft long, or we £843, the double £861. will make at least three visits to can custom-build one any size



sleep.on, the Sorrento, which is made by KA International, based in London, is a bed that can be made into a sofa. It has of retaining all your fingers. a full sprung mattress and is the size of a single bed. It is sold with or without back cushions.

ond bed contained in the drawer underneath, making either a singles. Depending on the fabric, the single costs around

Until recently sofa beds were bough for necessity and were

and the mechanism for hauling of delivery, they'll take it away out the base has improved. At

Sales of sofa beds account for 28 per cent of Sofa Workshop's turnover; around 800 It can also be sold with a sec-shift a week. The ones sold via mail order come straight from the factory and are slightly

are often first- or second-time home owners, but are well past the futon-in-a-bag stage. Sofa Chesterfield shape, but future its sofas can be made with bolt- Notting Hill, was spotted brows-Workshop Direct promise that trends point towards Big notably short on glamour. But if you don't like the sofa when Furniture.

sentially, sofas that you can their image has been upgraded, it's delivered, or within 10 days again without question. And if least now you've a fair chance you're still trying to make up your mind what's going to match the carpet, they'll provide a courtesy sofa to sit on in the meantime, and take it away

when the new one arrives.

Prices for the mail order range start at £399, but in stores where custom made sofa beds Their mail order customers are ordered (often for taller buyers) they can rise to £2,000. The current best-seller is a trendy

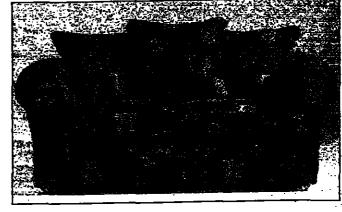
London Property

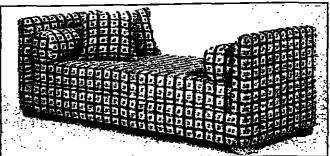
"The size of sofas is definitely increasing," says Grant. Traditionally, sofa beds were compact because it was assumed that people needed the space. Now the demand is for

bigger ones, to make best use

of the rooms."

Big sofas needn't always mean grumpy delivery men get- the room around it. It is a big ting stuck in the sitting-room door. Highly Sprung, which screws, glues and dowels in a factory in High Wycombe and has three stores in London, says on arms and split frames if de- ing in one of the shops a few Sloane Avenue, London SW3 livery access is restricted. (They days ago). They've noticed a (0171-584 7352).





also advise measuring the access before ordering.)

"Sofa beds have come a long way," says the firm's Neil Brown, a former advertising man who started selling Chesterfield sofas from his sitting room by way of a profitable extra-curricular activity.

"The mechanisms, which are made in Belgium, are lighter. Fabrics are so much more attractive that people now tend to buy the sofa bed first and then build the rest of statement."

The company sells about 50 sofa beds a week (Batman and Highly Sprung (01494 439596); Avengers actress Uma Thur- Sofa Workshop Direct (01443 man, who is house-hunting in

Live/Work

Rest assured: today's sofa beds offer functionality with style. Top left, the Dublin £449; main picture Coniston £449; top right, Tashkent £399; all from Sofa Workshop Direct, and bottom left and right, examples from Highly Sprung and KA

shift in buyer trends, too.

"Instead of moving house, people are redecorating, and have new covers made for their

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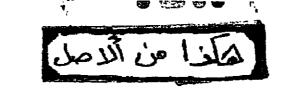
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A faster way to be rid of the burden

Everyone knows that Otaking out a mortgage may mean paying back many thousands of pounds more in interest than the capital they borrowed in the first place. Fewer people know that the amount of interest depends on how the capital repayments are calculated. Nic Cicutti explains the different methods.

Twenty years or so ago the choice of mortgage available to most borrowers was simple. To paraphrase Henry Ford, you could either have a repayment loan, or a repayment loan.

This is the kind of mortgage where each year into the loan you repay a mixture of interest and capital. Gradually, the capital repayments increase relative to interest until by the end, most of the monthly payments involve the loan itself.

In the 1980s everything changed. Lenders introduced the interest-only loan, backed by a separate investment - typically an endowment policy, but also PEPs and tax-free pension lump

However, fears over whether endowments can pay off the entire loan in a low-inflation climate have led to the resurgence of direct repayment options. If nothing else, their supporters argue, repayments offer the certainty of meeting the full cost of the mortgage over the agreed

But the return in popularity of repayment options has also over 25 years. Or the repayment sensitive to suggestions that

led to a fierce debate over how each monthly payment should be calculated against the loan

A survey by Harris Research for Yorkshire Bank earlier this year suggests that a third of people have no idua when their mortgages will be fully paid off, and more than 50 per cent have no idea what their exact repayments are or how they are calculated.

Typically, mortgage lenders will calculate the amount of capital to be repaid only at the end of a 12-month cycle, no matter how much has been repaid in the intervening period. This is known within the mortgage industry as the "annual rest" pe-

In effect, it means that borrowers who repay their mortgages each month are themselves loaning money to their lenders throughout the year, until their repayments are credited against the amount still outstanding.

The alternative is to credit part of the amount paid against the capital owed, as soon as it comes in, either monthly ("monthly rest") or daily ("dai-

Research by Yorkshire Bank, which operates the daily rest system, shows what that means. The bank calculates that if borrowers' monthly repayments were immediately set against the capital owed, savings of thousands of pounds in interest could be achieved.

On a typical £50,000 loan, repaid monthly at today's rate of 8.45 per cent, monthly repayments of £373.74 would give total interest savings of £4,459



period could be cut by 10

Yorkshire Bank allows payments to be made fortnightly. With such a system, the interest saved compared to other lenders would be £5,600, lopping 14 months off the repayperiod. Weekly repayments would give savings of £6,312, or 15 months off the

typical period. Direct Line, the telephone insurer which now also offers mortgages and has a variable rate of 7.59 per cent, also to take the lower capital owed operates daily rests. Over 25 years, its loans would give total interest savings of £7,533

compared to the rate that is charged by most lenders. Lenders are increasingly

their charging system is unfair. Some, while still operating an annual rest system, argue that they are prepared to be flexible to help people pay off their loans early.

Andrew Stinson, from Barclays Mortgages information unit, says: "We are prepared to allow people to make lump sums reductions of £1,000 or more on standard variable mortgages, without penalty, and payments will be adjusted downwards the following month into account.

"We are also ready to show flexibility with people who have fixed-rate mortgages, allowing them to pay up to twice their normal monthly payments, thus reducing the term of the mort-

gage." Mr Stinson suggests that capped mortgages." John Charit may be possible both to make one-off capital repayments and to increase monthly payments in order to cut the loan period.

Ian Darby, marketing director at John Charcol, the mortgage brokers, argues that flexibility is key to the right

What people are really looking for is the chance to pay off their loan faster than the original limit. This may be for many reasons, including coming Nic Cicutti, personal finance edinto lump sums, perhaps as a result of bonuses.

We try to offer a range of mortgage that impose no redemption penalties for people who wish to make partial re- 0800 585691. Or fill in the payments, be they fixed-rate or coupon on page 4.

col also offers new-style flexible mortgages which allow for payment holidays and swifter repayments at borrowers' own discretion Which?, the consumer mag-

azine, this month publishes a guide to checking your mort-gage statement, which includes a list of lenders operating monthly or daily rests. Obtaining a copy could help you shave thousands off your loan.

itor, has written a 27-page 'Guide to Mortgages', available free to roaders of 'The Independent'. The guide, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages, is available by calling

The pink pound is at home in the city

PENNY JACKSON

Home hunters in London relatively short house hunt have flocked to Elephant & has ended with that rare Castle to buy an apartment in Metro Central, a revamped office block on New Keni Road.

Within two weeks of launching its final phase, Metro South, St George, the developer has sold 35 of the 100 studios and flats. Not surprisingly, its position close to Waterloo and the City and its competitive prices have all contributed to its success, but so has the pink pound.

Apparently, word of mouth among the gay community has boosted its popularity. "It has an American lifestyle flavour to it," says a man who lives in nearby Brixton. "They can see themselves as living in an episode of Friends. The gymnasium and swimming pool under one roof would be irresistible. Gay men like to colonise and have definitely taken up south of the river. It has all the space you get for the money. You have to have somewhere to put your rowing machine."

Lorna Vesty, a partner at Knight Frank, says the gay buyer is a major buying force in central urban developments. "They mirror the rising importance of emptynesters in rural new developments," she says. "In the case of London, the usual rules apply - affordability and location are the two crucial issues for all buyers. Single people or those without children often like to be within easy reach and nightclubs and and restaurants." Metro South prices start at £67,950 and go up to £218,950 for a three bedroom, three-bathroom duplex. Sales centre: 0171 967 0545.

There are people who have been waiting years for the a competition for the largest come on to the market. So when the London-based Honeypot Home children's charity started its search there, it is not surprising it

was met by gloomy faces. But the organisation's of the winner's choosing.

creature, a four-bedroom house in seven acres in the New Forest. Compromise was the key.

Four years of hard fund-raising to provide needy children with a break from home were a lesson on value for money. "The house is an unexciting Seventies building but it has a bungalow in the grounds, a flat above the garage, a swimming pool and a lake," the charity's founder, Lisa Nelson, says. We paid £430,000, £20,000 under the asking price and the district council were brilliant about granting change of use. All we need now are a lot of fairy godmothers to help us kit it out."

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Most people's dream home is a Georgian rectory, and a dream it usually remains, says Kevin Allen of John D Wood's Lymington office. "A period house in a decent garden is as rare as hens' teeth. Anyone after that kind of house in the New Forest has to compromise. Prices here are still largely fuelled by the shortage of good houses for sale." An Edwardian-built neo-Georgian house, minus nooks and crannies, with a cottage, would be around £750,000.

Sunflowers have been doing good business this summer in west London. Rolfe East, the estate agency and lettings group, abandoned the traditional agent's board for one in the shape of a sunflower.

This unusual marketing campaign has met with approval, as well it might given the ugliness of a cluster of run-of-the mill boards. The agents are almost as keen to promote the real thing and have been running perfect Hampshire house to sunflower grown on their paich.

It finished this week as sunflowers begin to droop. So far a seven footer from Ealing is leading the field. A £200 prize will go to a school

MORTGAGE BARGAIN BASEMENT

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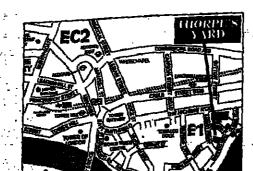
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Company of the same of

Growth of a legend: stages in the evolution of the Porsche. The latest is the best - and you can even hear the stereo

A beast, more beautiful than ever

There are better, faster, more beautiful cars than the Porsche 911. But there is none that serves up such a magical mix of sports car interaction, engine punch and live-wire behaviour. Gavin Green is smitten.

This is my favourite car. You don't so much drive a Porsche 911, as ride it. It is a barely tamed stallion, always on the verge of unruliness. Yet if you concentrate, drive forcefully and drive well, there is no car that rewards its master so richly.

The 911 is terrifically tactile. Drive one, and nothing else is quite the same. It is also marvellously practical. No car is better made or more reliable. It is probably the world's only sports car that can be used every day, and do its job as uncomplainingly as an Escort.

And now, 34 years after its invention, there is a new one. There have been updates over the past three decades or so, revisions that have partly tamed the beast and made it more usable and comfortable. The last iteration, unveiled in 1994 and codenamed the 993, was undoubtedly the best. Until this one, the brand new 911 - the best Porsche of the lot, and possibly the most desirable sports car in the world.

Although brand new - every panel is different, every mechanical component altered - the new 911 has been carefully designed to carry on the tradition. Its engine is nestled neatly in the tail, behind the rear axle line, which helps give the car such compact dimensions and such slingshot acceleration out of corners.

The downside is obvious: having all that weight out the back does not help handling balance. Most rival sports cars, as well as many cheaper ones (such as the MGF and Toyota MR2) have their engines in the middle, between cabin and

rear wheels, in Formula One racing car-style. Others, typically, have front engines and rear drive, which - as with a bar-bell, heavy at both ends - at least gives some equilibrium to the whole.

The new 911has a flat-six engine, an unusual layout, as did its forebear. Again, it makes for compactness, and the most marvellous mechanical music at high revs - a bull-elephant bellow only a few feet behind you.

The noise has always been part of the 911 mystique. The new flat-six engine, though, is watercooled, and those water jackets do partly dampen the orchestra. The old motor was air-cooled, like the old VW Beetle's motor, and thus there was little to muffle the tuneful cacophony of those six cylinders reciprocating at crazy speeds. The new motor doesn't sound quite as distinctive, at

SPECIFICATIONS

erage fuel economy 28mpg.

hamstrung by an ordinary badge. Beauti-

fully wrought aluminium body, marvellous

engine, terrific to drive. Best alternative to

Jaguar XK8 £47,950. Bigger, slower, more

cumbersome, but probably more beautiful,

in an understated British way. Surprising-

ly, it's no roomier than the much smaller

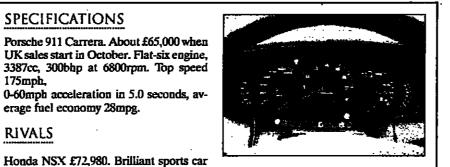
RIVALS

a Porsche.

least not until you've passed 6,000rpm on the big 911, however, is small, and feels small. That is central tachometer. When you're cranking on, the engine is finally restored to full voice; there is just no finer automotive ensemble. And the new motor is more powerful and economical than the old model's. Porsche 911s have always been tolerably economical, helped by their light weight, relatively small engines (in sports car parlance) and small size.

Their smallness has another attraction. Most supercars are too big, the upshots of needlessly vast engines trying to propel wastefully vast - but eye-catchingly extravagant - bodies to absurdhigh and largely academic maximum speeds.

Most current supercars are, in real conditions, slower than small hatchbacks, an upshot of their bulk and their awkward driving positions. The



but no other advantages over the Porsche. Now that the 911 has been replaced by a new model, the Esprit is the world's longest-lived supercar. And it needs replacing far more urgently than the Porsche one reason why rear-engined Porsches are raced successfully and, on public roads, are probably the fastest point-to-point cars in the world.

The new 911 is marginally bigger - 18.5cm longer, 3cm wider - but 50kg lighter than its predecessor. The greater size helps to make for greater cabin space. The 911 has more front seat room than many much bigger GTs, including the vast Jaguar XK8. The old 911 was cramped; the new one feels positively spacious. The rear seat room is still exiguous; useful only for small children and chattels. The boot is usefully bigger.

The biggest change, though, is in the way the new car drives. It is still a real 911. Its agility and explosive acceleration are still uncannily like that of its predecessor. But the hyperactivity has been leavened with a degree of restfulness. If you wish to cruise down a motorway - conditions in which the old 911 always demanded maximum attention, and provided minimal creature comforts - the new one is quiet, stable, and relaxing.

The old 911 wanted to play all the time. The new one gives you a break when you simply wish to cruise, or enjoy the music. And, yes, you can hear the stereo on a long run, rather than be continually serenaded by that chain-saw buzz. But when you want to play, the new one can party hard. The steering is deliciously sharp and doesn't buck and kick back on tight, bumpy roads, as the old model's did. Instead, it rides the burnps and irregularities, and gives good clean feedback no

As before, you can balance the car on bends, using both the throttle - in charge of so much power, so instantly accessible - and the steering. And the car proves just so obedient and controllable and small, helped by brilliant brakes. There is just no other car that can leave its driver so utterly intoxicated by its charms.



GAVIN GREEN

How MPVs took us all for a ride

Sales of MPV vehicles are booming, largely because they're regarded as more versatile than normal saloons or estates. But in one major area - probably the major area - they're a

MPVs, such as Espaces and Galaxys and Sharans, offer seven seats, most of which can fold and swivel and tilt and slide, and change from lounge chair to picnic table at the merest pull of a lever. But key to their claim to versatility is that the seats can be removed completely - by that measure, they're about as practical as a backpack made of lead.

Sure, if you've got strong enough hands, bad enough finger nails, and tough enough skin, you can just about perform the exertions and finger gymnastics required to remove the chairs. But to us mere mortals, it's far too much aggro. Most MPV owners I know stick to the seven- or five-seat format, and rarely change. In practice, the seating format is as rigid as a nun's

Not only are the chairs of all MPVs - from the baby Mercedes A-class to the class-topping new Renault Espace - awkward to remove and replace, but what on earth do you do with them when they're out? Even if you own a garage, do you really want to put your posh velourcovered chairs in the corner, to gather dust?

And for us urban dwellers, who find it hard to liberate enough house space for our books let problem is even more acute. I suggested putting the rear-most chairs of a recent test Espace in our lounge, but Her Indoors insisted that the purple velour clashed with the cream Heal's three-piece suite. And she found the metal "legs" of the Espace

seats unsightly. Even if you manage to extract all the back seats from an Espace in order to carry that chest of drawers to grandpa's, what happens if grandpa and grandma want to come home with you? The answer - sorry but I left the seats at home

 seems rather pathetic. It's partly for the above reasons, and partly because my wife still can't come to terms with driving a recently decided to buy a Mercedes estate?

three-year-old Mercedes estate, to cart around our three young boys and the odds and ends (travel cot; pushchair, footballs, Power Rangers, Street Sharks. sweets, Lego, toy cars, books, comics, rucksacks that invariably accompany them.

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particularly What attracted us was the optional rear-facing bench, which boosts the peoplecarrying capacity to seven The two rearmost chairs fold up or down with great ease. If you wish to turn vour estate from a cupboard carrier into a people carrier, it's a simple matter of folding rather than removing/replacing assuming, of course, that the MPV seats are nearby.

Fortunately, there's a new people carrier that doesn't require its owners to skin their knuckles every time they want to alter the seating arrangement, and doesn't unfortunate grandparents to lie low in the rear. It's the new Vauxhall Zafira, and it's still a year away from the showroom. Vauxhall reckoned, quite sensibly, that it's far preferable to leave seats in than to take them away, so the back five seats of the

new Zafira ali fold. The rear two seats fold flat into the floor, allowing the middle bench (which can seat three) to slide over them, if necessary. And the middle bench folds forward, out of the way, in the good ol' estate style. "It's just so much easier than the normal arrangement." Vauxhall/Opel's head of Hanenberger, told me at the recent Frankfurt Show, where the Zafira was

unveiled. (Quite where this puts the recently launched, and orthodoxcabined, Vauxhall Sintra MPV, I didn't dare enquire.) The Zafira is a small

MPV - it's of Renault Scenic rather than Renault Espace exterior size - and it strikes me as being potentially the biggest leap forward in MPVs since the original Espace, 13 years ago. Why buy a similarly sized Astra or Golf, when the same sort of money will buy you a car with seven seats and genuine versatility? Or, for that matter (and this is a little harder for me to come to glorified van. that we terms with), why buy a

Relax. In future we can all slump and drive

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According to Which?, 80 per cent of us will suffer from back trouble at some time in our lives. Driving is widely blamed. Spend more than half your working day at the wheel and you are six times more likely than non-drivers to be off work, according to a survey by Loughborough University. In another study, lorry drivers were found to be 25 times more prone to a slipped disc.

So what's wrong with our car seats? Have the manufacturers got them wrong? John Gorman, of Iliac Design, believes they

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have. "All cars seats are designed on completely the wrong principles," he says.

Gorman - a chartered engineer before he became a qualified chiropractor and seat maker - argues that modern car seats with fashionably prominent lumbar support, widely regarded as good for the spine, exacerbate back trouble. Gorman, who self-healed his own sports-aggravated back problems, asserts that lumbar padding causes the backbone to bend more, not less, just above

pelvis. It is here that most serious back trouble occurs.

It was obvious to Gorman. as a mechanical engineer, that lumbar padding was not the answer. In countering the pelvis's natural tendency to tilt backwards under body weight when sitting upright - as in a car or at your desk - the backbone levers itself into a double bend. opening up the base joints. The greater the angle between each vertebra, the greater the strain - and the higher the likelihood of back trouble. where it connects with the

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this harmful effect is clearly illustrated in an Iliac video. It also shows that those postures regarded as correct - sitting up straight and not slumping - defy nature. Relaxing with an evenly curved spine, as in squatting

on your heels or slouching in a chair, is good for your back. It's no coincidence that lower back trouble is rare in third-world countries where there are few drivers or office workers.

Gorman's solution to the problem is simple. Do away with the spine-distorting lumbar padding and provide in-

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stead firm support for the tall sides of the pelvis.

Iliac Design's 'pelvic posture' seats (those for office use are already in production) are quite distinctive. The pelvic support bulges low down in a sort of vee formation at the base of the backrest. Little or no pressure is applied to the lumbar region just above.

I tried two of Gorman's experimental pelvic seats. That in a Citroen Xantia had particularly prominent V-shaped pelvic padding. The benefits were soon apparent. The pelvic

support in a Nissan Serena (Gorman's family wheels) was not so prominent but no less effective. Both seats felt anatomically right.

Iliac reports favourable re-

actions from most drivers who have tried its seats. Pending the availability of car scats built to his pelvic posture principle, Gorman recommends portable padding - and plenty of slouching and crouching, just as nature intended. If your car has adjustable lumbar support, set it to the minimum.

- Roger Bell

MY WORST CAR/PHILIP MADOC

The vanishing Stag cost me dear

It was called the Triumph Stag but was nicknamed the Snag. Mine had more than its fair

To be honest I knew nothing about these cars. The only reason I chose it was because it was a convertible. I am a passionate motorcyclist - I love to see the sky and feel the wind and an open-topped car is the best compromise.

The Stag could only have been about three years old when I bought it but it quickly became apparent that the engine had serious problems. Now I'm not a mechanic, so I took it to a specialist and they recommended that the sick V8 should be swapped for a Rover engine. I arranged to drop it off at a garage in Hertfordshire and trusted them to get on with

l was busy working all over the country at the time, but still



managed to keep in touch with the garage by telephoning them at least every other weekend. They kept telling me what I wanted to hear so the progress sounded promising. Unfortunately I was in no

position to check the situation personally, which was my biggest mistake. After six months though I became very suspicious and visited the premises one Saturday morn-

They had hardly started work on the car and worse than that, it had gone missing. There was no trace of it, so I had to call in the police. Eventually it was found in a garage in south it had been there. I strongly suspect it had been there most of the time. It all got a bit messy because the proprietor was eventually taken to court and

London. No one knew how long

There was no happy ending for me though as I never got any money back and worst of all never even drove the Stag. Thad to sell a half-finished car. It was a very unpleasant experience and one I will never forget.

The Stag did not put me off convertibles - I have had a succession of open-topped cars ever since. My first love is still motorcycles. None of them have ever given me as much grief as that awful Snag.

Philip Madoc is appearing in 'A Mind to Kill', on Channel 5 on Saturdays at 9pm. He was talking to James Ruppert.